

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of all people,  
thank you for your gift  
of the Holy Spirit  
to us and the whole Church.

Through the power  
of your Spirit,  
may we tell the whole world  
about Jesus;

forgive those  
who have hurt us,  
as we have been forgiven;

and live a happy life,  
doing all  
that you want us to do.

We pray this prayer  
through Jesus, your Son,

who lives with you  
and the Holy Spirit.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The mission of the church is to do  
the work of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus breathed into his disciples  
his own life, the Holy Spirit. By the  
power of that Spirit, the church is  
born. They are now to do what his  
death and resurrection was all  
about—forgive. Peace is the greeting  
of the Risen Lord and peace is his  
continued presence in the church.

This Spirit comes upon the  
disciples with power. In the name of  
Jesus, in every language, they are  
empowered to preach about "the  
great things God has done."

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-8, 11b

This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost,

the believers were gathered together

in one room.

All of a sudden they heard a sound

like a strong wind

that seemed to fill the whole house.

Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire

coming and resting on each one of them.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit,

and immediately they started to speak

in other languages.

At that time, there were visitors in Jerusalem

who had come from all over the world.

They were amazed

because they heard the believers

speaking in so many languages.

They said,

"How are they able to speak like this?"

Yet we can all hear them

telling in our own languages

about the great things God has done."

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Psalm 104



Send us your Spir - it, O Lord and re - new the face of the earth!



May your glo - ry last for - ev - er, May you re-joyce in all we do!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



"Peace - be with you!  
Al - le - lu - ia!  
Re - ceive the Ho - ly Spir - it."

GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

This is a reading from the Gospel of John.

In the evening,

the disciples were gathered in a room.

They had locked the doors

because they were afraid of the people

who had crucified Jesus.

Jesus came and stood in the room and said,

"Peace be with you!"

Then he showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples were filled with joy

when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said again,

"Peace be with you!"

Then he breathed on the disciples

and said to them,

"I give you the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive the sins of anyone,

they are forgiven.

If you do not forgive them,

they are not forgiven."

This is the Good News of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Before the first reading, remind the  
children of the first reading for Ascension.  
Reread to them the center part of the reading:

"One day when Jesus was with the  
disciples, he told them not to leave Jerusalem,  
but to wait there to receive the gift that had  
been promised by God. Jesus said,  
"I have told you about this promise. John  
baptized with water, but in a few days, you will  
be baptized with the Holy Spirit. When the  
Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive  
power and you will be my witnesses in  
Jerusalem, in Judaea and Samaria, and all  
over the world."

Now invite the children to listen to  
today's first reading.

After the first reading, ask the children  
how Jesus kept the promise that he had made.

Ask them what it "seemed like" to the  
disciples when they received the Holy Spirit.  
It is important to help them understand that  
the Holy Spirit is not "strong wind" and  
"tongues of fire." These are images used to  
describe an event which really cannot be put  
into words. We often do this. We say things  
like: "She is like a cute little kitten." Or we  
say, "She is as strong as a rock." We are using  
metaphors to help us express more a feeling or  
a quality than a physical presence. The  
disciples were able to preach with clarity and  
so, later, when writing this account, described  
the event as receiving "tongues of fire." We  
don't know what the event was like. They  
(and we) knew they had received the Holy  
Spirit by power they had to do Christ's work,  
especially of preaching and healing.

Ask the children (as we have before) what  
words are said at a Christian baptism.  
"I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Help them to understand that we too have  
received the Holy Spirit. Ask them what the  
disciples did when they received the Holy  
Spirit. The emphasis here should not be on  
"speaking other languages" but "telling...  
about the great things God has done."

- What great things (now)?
- Whom can we tell?

After the Gospel, ask them what other  
thing (besides "telling the great things God  
has done"), Jesus gave us the power to do.  
Explore ways in which they can "forgive  
others." Help them to see that, truly, if we  
(they) forgive someone, that person feels  
unforgiven. If we refuse this, that person feels  
unforgiven. We have the power of the Holy  
Spirit to free people by being forgiving. Help  
them to see that when we live this way, "the  
face of the earth will be like new." (The Psalm  
retrain)