



The Day of Pentecost (Whit
Sunday)
24th May 2026

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

HYMN

1 O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,
and fit your church to meet this hour.

3 O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part.

2 O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore, for this we plead.

4 O Heart of Christ, once broken for us,
'tis there we find our strength and rest;
our broken, contrite hearts now solace,
and let your waiting church be blest.

5 Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
equip your church to spread the light.

Confession

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

May the God of love and power
 forgive you and free you from your sins,
 heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
 and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

God, who as at this time
 taught the hearts of your faithful people
 by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
 grant us by the same Spirit
 to have a right judgement in all things
 and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
 through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.
 Amen.

A reading from the New Testament
 Acts 2 1-21

The Coming of the Holy Spirit



2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
 that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
 and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
 and your young men shall see visions,
 and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,

in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104

²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
²⁵ Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.
²⁶ There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
²⁷ These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.
³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—
³² who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.
³⁵ Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Praise the LORD!



A Reading from the New Testament
1 Corinthians 12 3b-13

¹² Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³ Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Unity and Diversity in the Body

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

HYMN

1. O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart!

2. There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise

3.. Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me

4. Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (John 7. 37-39)

Glory to you O Lord

The Gospel

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

This the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Reflection

The event recalled in this week's gospel happened on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) one of the three major Jewish observances, the others being Passover and Pentecost. It was and is, a Festival of great celebration; the city is lit up at night and there is much singing and dancing.

Sukkot occurs after the harvest has been completed and before the beginning of the new agricultural year. It is similar to our Harvest Thanksgiving but also has historic significance. Jews remember God's provision during the forty years of wilderness wandering. Many will observe the festival by leaving their permanent dwellings to live in the more fragile, temporary booths, or "sukkot."

Water played a significant part of this festival. Each day water and wine, were poured over the altar as a libation. On the last or 'great' day of the feast, the water libation rite reached its climax. The priests circled the altar seven times and then poured out the water with great pomp and ceremony.

Imagine the scene – the Temple area would have been noisy with vast crowds. As the water is poured Jesus' voice rings out: "If any man thirst, let him come to me and drink.!"

Jesus was making a direct reference to Isaiah 55,

"Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

As the water flowed down the steps from the altar Jesus uses this moment to address our deepest needs. We understand physical thirst and how that can only be satisfied by water which we take into ourselves. Here Jesus speaks of thirst as it relates to our inner life.

Perhaps we question the meaning of life or feel that all meaning has left, or we are overwhelmed by the need for forgiveness as our life feels polluted, or guidance when we have come to the end of ourselves and look for some sort of anchor or lode star in the universe – life no longer makes sense. The 2.30 a.m. moments when sleep eludes, and an empty darkness seems everywhere.

"Come to me and drink."

It would be completely possible to stand by a stream of clear water and die of thirst or in the presence of a banquet and starve. There is something required of us, we are not only to come - but to drink.

This is the invitation – just like Isaiah's above.

If we have no sense of need, we will never come; God then has nothing for us. If we never understand that without Jesus we are lost, then being saved makes no sense. We have to hear the bad news about ourselves in order for the good news to make sense.

Are you thirsty – come and drink, are you weary and heavy laden, come and find rest. Hungry for what really satisfies? Then come.

And what is the Promise that links all this to the glorious Feast of Pentecost. It is the promise of the Holy Spirit.

"Let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart (literally 'belly') shall flow rivers of living water.'"

The Jews placed all the feelings and the thoughts and emotions in certain parts of the body. The heart was the seat of the thought and the intellect; the kidneys and the belly were the seat of the inmost emotions and feelings.

Jesus says: Come to me; accept me; trust me; and I will put into you through my Spirit a new life which will give you purity and satisfaction, will take away frustrations and unsatisfied hungers; give you the kind of life you long for.

How can this be ours? We cannot earn this, we will never deserve it, all we have is our sense of need and our desire to respond to Jesus' invitation.

Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they will eat with me. Revelation 3.20

A simple prayer – something like this:

'Lord Jesus, I hear your invitation and I want to respond I want to come. I invite you into my life, I believe you are the Son of God. Thank you that you died for me that I can be forgiven and cleansed. I receive the Holy Spirit as you promised to all who believe and receive you. I ask you to be Lord of my life now and forever. Amen.'

We believe in him, we come to him, we invite him into our lives – we 'drink'. We cannot drink a river – yet Jesus says that this is what will flow from us. We become aware of His life within us like an artesian well or a fountain which never can run dry but flows through and out of our lives cleansing, healing and always bringing life.

This same theme appears again in the climax of our great story in the last chapter of the book of Revelation.

"The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires, take the water of life without price." (Revelation 22:17)

Intercessions

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

Generous God,

we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

Lord, come to bless us

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.

Lord, come to bless us

We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.

Lord, come to bless us

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

Lord, come to bless us

We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.

Lord, come to bless us

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.

Lord, come to bless us

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit, given us by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed, in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless us

Faithful God,

who fulfilled the promises of Easter

by sending us your Holy Spirit

and opening to every race and nation

the way of life eternal:

open our lips by your Spirit,

that every tongue may tell of your glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As our Saviour taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.

The Blessing

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the life he gives.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and always.

HYMN

1 Come down, O love divine, seek Thou this soul
of mine,
And visit it with Thine own ardour glowing.
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart
appear,
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

2 O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path
illumining

3 Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler
part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with
loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong, with which the
soul will long,
Shall far out-pass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till he become the
place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.