

The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

In 14:15-16, 23-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever.

‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you while still with you;

but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Breaking Open the Word

COMMUNICATING OUR FAITH

Through the gift of the outpouring of the Spirit, the first disciples were empowered to preach the message of Jesus in language that could be understood by all. To this day Pentecost remains a model for the continuing life of the Church as we seek to speak meaningfully to the people of our own time.

One of Paul’s greatest strengths as an apostle was his creativity and tireless search to communicate, in contemporary language, the meaning and consequences of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Like a cutter of precious stones, he was always bringing new facets to light, always searching for new ways to explain and communicate what he believed. He knew that Pentecost was only experienced by a chosen few and yet all Christians had been baptised into the love of Father, Son and Spirit. The gift of the Spirit enables all of us to call on God as Abba, as Father, sharing in the inheritance and promises of Christ himself. With this gift comes the call to respond and for Paul, this means leaving our enslaved past behind. Since the Spirit has made a home in us, we should live accordingly.

Similarly, the Gospel calls us to actualise the gift of the Spirit we have received through our faithfulness to Jesus’ command to love one another. That first Pentecost the disciples spoke in ways that could be understood by all. The simplest and most powerful language we have is being faithful to Jesus’ command to love one another.

Christopher Monaghan CP



PENTECOST SUNDAY / C

THE SAVING WORD

5 JUNE 2022

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. ‘Surely’ they said ‘all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.’

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34. R. v. 30

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (or Alleluia!)

1. Bless the Lord, my soul! / Lord God, how great you are! / How many are your works, O Lord! / The earth is full of your riches. **R.**
2. You take back your spirit, they die, / returning to the dust from which they came. / You send forth your spirit, they are created; / and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**



3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever! / May the Lord rejoice in his works! / May my thoughts be pleasing to him. / I find my joy in the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:1-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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