

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world
and that which contains all things
understands what is said, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast
sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation,
pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit
across the face of the earth
and, with the divine grace that was at work
when the Gospel was first proclaimed,
fill now once more the hearts of believers.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Ac 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 103 (104):1,24,29-31,34

Response:
Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

Jn 14:5-16, 23-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, as promised by your Son,
the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly
the hidden mystery of this sacrifice
and graciously lead us into all truth.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church,
safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given,
that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her
may retain all its force
and that this spiritual food
may gain her abundance of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday Message

THE WORD

GOD'S FREE GIFT

JN 14:15-16.23-26



Jesus promised his disciples that he would send his Holy Spirit after he had returned to his Father. In today's readings we hear how that promise was fulfilled. The Holy Spirit was given freely and the results were spectacular. The disciples began to speak in foreign tongues about the marvels of God.

Because the Holy Spirit is a free gift we might be inclined to show little appreciation. Perhaps we rarely even recognise the Spirit's presence in our lives. But imagine if we did begin to recognise the Spirit's presence in us, if we were enlivened by it, set on fire by it. What a different people we would be. And what a different world we would have. ■

REFLECT

After the passion and death of Jesus, the apostles cowered behind locked doors, full of fear. Their fear had cut them off from the world. Then, Jesus appeared in their midst, and their fear turned to joy.

Jesus breathed on them, breathed the breath of God on them, filled them with his life, with God's life – with confidence, hope, conviction, power. They became new people, ready to proclaim the Good News to the ends of the earth, even to die for it.

That same gift of the Holy Spirit that was poured out on the apostles at Pentecost is given to us, too. One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is courage. The Spirit gives us the courage to follow Jesus whatever the cost.

American Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister says our model must be both Jesus the healer and Jesus the prophet. The popular embrace of Jesus the healer, she says, has obscured the more radical Jesus, who challenged the status quo and religious leaders of his time. "We live in an era that accepts half of what it means to follow Jesus," she says. We neglect the prophetic dimension.

Chittister wrote her book, The Time is Now, she says, "because I could not bear the roar of the silence any longer." She warns we are at a time when huge choices must be made that will determine the future of the world.

Choice takes three forms, she writes. The first is avoidance and to withdraw from the fray. The second is submission and passive acceptance, to keep our head down and "become part of the great enabling silence." The third is to be prophetic. "This prophetic choice says 'no' to anything that ignores the will of God or God's creation." We must always follow the prophetic path, she says.

It's difficult to do that today. Many people don't want to hear from us. We can be tempted to stay silent, afraid to raise our heads, comfortable only in the safe spaces. But we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. And filled with the Holy Spirit, we need not be afraid; there is nothing we can't do. ■

SAY

"Lord, forgive me for the times
I have lacked the courage to put
you first. Amen."

PRAY

Pray that you will have the courage to witness to the Gospel every day.

DO

Think about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Do you know them? Do you use them?

LEARN

In the 790s/early 800s, Charles, King of the Franks (better known as Charlemagne), was at the height of his powers. Regarded by many historians as the 'Father of Europe,' Charles had been steadily adding to his kingdom, extending it across most of France into northern Italy, Germany and Bohemia. Charlemagne's reign was marked by political and social changes that had lasting influence on Europe throughout the Middle Ages. He was also a key supporter of the papacy, and in the year 800, was crowned emperor in Rome by Pope Leo III.

So one might wonder why this great political and military leader with so much on his plate would also concern himself with a theological dispute to do with the Holy Spirit, known as the Filioque controversy. This was a debate between Western and Eastern Christianity over the addition of the words 'and the Son' to a clause of the Nicene Creed. (The word 'Filioque' means 'and the Son'.) While the original Creed professed the Holy Spirit as proceeding 'from the Father,' the Filioque altered this to 'from the Father and the Son.'

The Eastern (Orthodox) church sharply disagreed with the doctrine that the Holy Spirit proceeds not from the Father alone—as earlier Church Fathers had taught—but from both the Father and the Son, because it made the Son coequal with the Father. Instead, the Orthodox preferred the expression 'from the Father through the Son.' The dispute was one of the reasons for the split between Western and Eastern Christianity which endures to this day.

Charlemagne believed that the Filioque was the authentic version of the Creed and strongly promoted it throughout his empire. At the Synod of Aachen in 809, he petitioned Pope Leo III to have the clause accepted throughout the universal church. Though he personally supported the Filioque, Leo declined, in order to avoid a schism with the East. In 1014, however, the Filioque was formally accepted by the Vatican and has been part of the Creed in the Catholic church ever since.