



Pentecost Sunday

Birthday Of The Church

Introduction

Pentecost saw the birth of a new community, the new People of God. Today then is the birthday of the Church. This is the day the apostles left the supper room, where they had been hiding for fear of the Jews, and went out fearlessly to preach the Gospel. They could not have done this without "power from on high", that is, the Holy Spirit. We too need the Holy Spirit in order to live as Christians in the world of today. He comes to us, not just as individuals, but as members of a community.

First Reading (Acts 2:1-11)

Here we have an account of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles on Pentecost Sunday and the effects of that coming on them.

Second Reading (1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13)

People have different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives these various gifts for the building up of the Christian community, which is the Body of Christ.

Gospel (Jn 20:9-23)

On Easter Sunday evening Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon his apostles, a Spirit of forgiveness and of peace.

Prayer Of The Faithful

On this day we celebrate how at Pentecost Christ sent the Holy Spirit on the first community of his followers. Let us pray that he may send the same Spirit on us, on our Church, and on our world.

R: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

For the Christian community: that it may enjoy the gifts of unity, love and peace. Let us pray.

R: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

For the world community: that it may enjoy the gifts of freedom, justice, and peace. Let us pray.

R: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.



Liturgy Cycle B

For those who have never belonged to the flock of Christ, and for those who have cut themselves off from it: that they may hear the gentle voice of Christ. Let us pray.

R: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

That as with the apostles on Pentecost Day, the Holy Spirit may help us to profess our faith openly by word and deed in the world. Let us pray.

R: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Communion Reflection

Thoughts from St. Paul.

My friends,
let me remind you that you were called to freedom,
the freedom of the children of God.

If you want to be free
you must let yourselves be guided,
not by the spirit of self-indulgence,
but by the Spirit of God.

Look at the legacy self-indulgence produces:
bad temper, fighting, jealousy,
cruelty, meanness, revenge,
fornication, idolatry, and drunkenness.
These are ugly things.
They make life miserable, and make slaves of us.
Besides, those who live like this
do not belong to the kingdom of God.

But consider the legacy the Spirit brings:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
These are beautiful things,
They make life worthwhile,
and those who live like this are free agents.
They already belong to the kingdom of God,
but what they enjoy now is only a foretaste
of the joys to come.

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on us.