



Liturgy Cycle C

Pentecost Sunday

Emerging From The Shadows

Introduction

Today we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, and how as a result of that coming they went out to preach the Gospel to the entire world. It is a mistake to see this coming as something that happened once and that can never happen again. Through the prayer of the Church, the Holy Spirit comes to this roomful of people this morning. And how much we need him. We are weak and cowardly, lazy and selfish. Let us dispose ourselves to receive the Spirit.

First Reading (Acts 2:1-11)

Here we have an account of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles on Pentecost Day 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 (John 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

Let us pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives, into the Church, and into the whole world.

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

For all Christians: that the Holy Spirit may gather all the followers of Jesus into the unity of the Body of Christ and help them to be his witnesses in the world. Let us pray.

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

For all rulers and leaders: that the Holy Spirit may guide and enlighten them so that the earth may see the coming of justice and peace. Let us pray.

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

That the Holy Spirit may dry the tears of all those who mourn and may turn their sorrow into joy. Let us pray.

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



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That the Holy Spirit may teach us wisdom and simplicity of heart, and help us to care for one another. Let us pray.

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

Communion Reflection

**A child picks up a small bird
that has fallen from its nest.
He makes his hand into a nest
to keep it from falling
and doing further damage to itself.**

**But he does not make his hand into a cage,
for he has no intention of possessing the bird
or turning it into a pet.
Having reassured the bird that it is in safe hands,
he slowly raises it up and up.
Then, when the moment is right, he releases it.
He rejoices when it succeeds in keeping itself aloft,
and he is happier still when it flies off.
That is what love does.**

**Holy Spirit, on Pentecost Day,
you released the apostles from the prison of the upper room,
and they went forth with courage to do the work of Jesus.
Kindle within us the fire of your love,
and in our own humble way,
we shall renew some small corner of the world.**