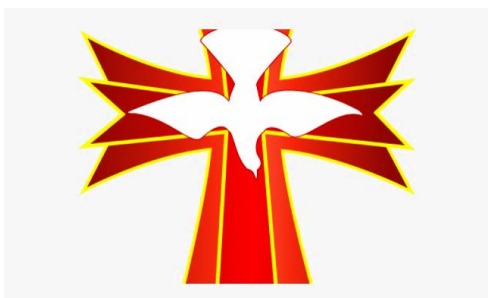


Sunday 23 May, 2021  
The Day of Pentecost



## Prayer and worship at home

*If a household are praying together, one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the words in bold type.*

*If alone, read all the words aloud.*

*You may want to light a candle before you begin, and have a Bible, cross or crucifix to look at.*

*You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to some music, or by being still.*

## Preparation

*The Holy Spirit is given with a breath. This breath of peace is given to the disciples to lift their troubled hearts. Jesus sends us his Spirit to fire our hearts and to give us courage even in the darkest moments of our lives.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Alleluia, Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

## The Act of Penitence

*As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.*

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## Words of forgiveness

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

## The Special Prayer for this week

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## The Word of the Lord

**FIRST READING** : Acts 2, 1 – 21.

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' 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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "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. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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

## **THE GOSPEL : John 20. 19-23**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Affirmation of faith**

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we affirm our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe. Amen.**

## **Prayers of intercession**

*(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words,  
or be prompted by the words here)*

*We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety  
and fear...*

*We pray for our nation and its well-being...*

*We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we  
remember all those self-isolating at the moment...*

*We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and  
for those who feel cut off from friends and family...*

*We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all  
whom we remember with love and affection....*

*We pray for our schools, for their safety and well being  
and for all teaching and support staff...*



## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven...**

*Or*

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

## **The Grace**

*We conclude our prayers*

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the  
Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen**

Filled with the Spirit's power, let us celebrate the  
light and peace of Christ.

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Readings for the coming week:**

Monday	Psalm 85	Luke 1.50-56
Tuesday	Psalm 132	Mark 12.13-17
Wednesday	Psalm 136	Mark 12.18-27
Thursday	Psalm 143	Mark 12.28-34
Friday	Psalm 144	Mark 12.35-37
Saturday	Psalm 147	Mark 12.38-end

## **Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come**

Almighty God,  
your ascended Son has sent us into the world  
to preach the good news of your kingdom:  
inspire us with your Spirit  
and fill our hearts with the fire of your love,  
that all who hear your Word  
may be drawn to you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord