



# THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

PENTECOST SUNDAY

31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

## SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

## INTRODUCTION

Leader: We arrive at the fiftieth day! Today is the climax of the Easter Season, when we remember that moment when the Holy Spirit descended on Mary and the disciples gathered in prayer. The work of Jesus on earth is accomplished – now it is the turn of the Church to continue his presence and his mission. We pray today that the Holy Spirit will inspire all of us in the Church. Let us praise the glory of God, saying together:

## GLORIA

All: 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.

## OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. 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, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Acts 2:1-11*

When Pentecost day came round, they 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.

All: Thanks be to God!

## REFLECTION

Leader: Today is the birthday of the Church – that body of people of every race and nation, spread out through time, who seek to continue the Mission of Jesus, proclaiming faith in God and a way of life that leads to his Kingdom. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that enables us to do this, that allows us to pray, that ensures the continuing presence of Jesus in Holy Communion, that ensures we remain true to His teachings as the centuries unfold. In the reading above, we hear of the miracle of Pentecost, also referred to in the Preface of Mass today: the Spirit "*brought together the many languages of the earth in profession of the one faith.*" What is the language of the Church? Some would say Latin, while others would go back further and say Greek or Aramaic! But the language of the Church must be **love**: a love which breaks down barriers and unites all people in God's Kingdom. Let us pray that the Spirit may blow like a rushing wind through our world today, to fill us with the language of love in all that we say and do.

## A THOUGHT FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS



If someone asked you to draw the Holy Spirit, you might paint a dove (the Spirit appeared like a dove when Jesus was baptised) or a flame (like the ones that appeared over the heads of the disciples on this Sunday). But really what you should paint is wind! But hang on – you can't see wind,

so how can you draw it? You would draw what it does – bending a tree, blowing the washing on the line, scattering the leaves. This is what the Holy Spirit is like – we can't see the Spirit, but we can see what the Spirit does: all the good things that people do in our world! So let the Holy Spirit blow you into acts of kindness today!

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, 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.

### INTERCESSIONS

Leader: We join Mary and the disciples in praying for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: We ask that the Spirit of God bring comfort, consolation and hope to all who are in need.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: We ask that the Spirit be with all church leaders, teachers, missionaries and all who serve others.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: We ask that the Spirit of God may dwell in our minds and hearts, helping us to think, love and act as God wills.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Leader: 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.

**All: Amen.**

### PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: Almighty Father, bringing your Paschal Mystery to completion, you bestowed the Holy Spirit today on those you made your adopted children by uniting them to your Only Begotten Son. This same Spirit, as the Church came to birth, opened to all peoples

the knowledge of God and brought together the many languages of the earth in profession of the one faith. At the Last Supper Jesus showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**All: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.**

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

### THANKSGIVING PSALM

Leader: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

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.

**All: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

Leader: 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.

**All: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

Leader: 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.

**All: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

### FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: Let us pray. 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.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God!**