



A Celebration for the Feast of Pentecost

Sentence

'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,' says the Lord; 'and let the one who believes in me drink. For out of your heart shall flow rivers of living water.'
(John 7:38)

Opening Prayer or Collect (Year A)

Almighty God,
at the feast of Pentecost you sent your Holy Spirit
to the disciples, filling them with joy and boldness
to preach the gospel:

empower us with that same Spirit
to witness to your redeeming love
and draw all people to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings for the Feast of Pentecost (A)

Old Testament: Acts 2:1-21

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2 beginning at verse 1

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.'

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

or

Old Testament: Numbers 11:24-30

A Reading from the Numbers, Chapter 11 beginning at verse 24

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!' And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.'

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalms 104:26-36 APBA p 331

26 Lord, how various are your works:
in wisdom you have made them all and the earth is full of your creatures.

27 There is the wide, immeasurable sea:
there move living things without number, great and small;

28 There go the ships, to and fro:
and there is that Leviathan whom you formed to sport in the deep.

29 These all look to you:
to give them their food in due season.

- 30 When you give it to them, they gather it:
when you open your hand they are satisfied with good things.
- 31 When you hide your face, they are troubled:
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit they are created:
and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever:
may the Lord rejoice in his works.
- 34 If he look upon the earth, it shall tremble:
if he but touch the mountains, they shall smoke.
- 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live:
I will praise my God while I have any being.
- 36 May my meditation be pleasing to him:
for my joy shall be in the Lord.

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

A Reading from the first Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 12 beginning at verse 1

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: John 20:19-23

A Reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 20, beginning at verse 19

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

When it was evening on that day, 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.”

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ`