

Year A - Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2: 1-11

Matthew 27:11-54



This week, the resources are focussed on the second reading from the book of Acts. However, we've included both the Gospel reading and the second reading in this resource so you can either just read the Gospel or both readings.



Second Reading

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles 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.'

Gospel Reading

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy. After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."

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Introduction Pentecost is the Church's birthday - Happy Birthday Church! When the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples in the upper room, it gave them all the gifts they needed to tell people all across the world the great things Jesus had done so that they could know God's love too! We celebrate it as the day the Church was born because it was the day when the apostles began to 'do' the mission of Jesus. That's why we call it the birthday of the Church... so happy birthday!

Message

- Jesus had promised the disciples that he would send them a helper who would give them everything they needed to do all the things that Jesus had taught them.
- So, at Pentecost, the disciples were gathered together in one room when suddenly a powerful wind, like nothing they had seen before, came rushing through the room. Then, even stranger than that, fire suddenly appeared in the room and separated so that a tongue of fire came to rest on each person's head.
- From then on the disciples went out into the city telling everyone about the great things Jesus had done and the great love God has for them.
- They didn't stop there! They left the city and travelled out into the world, they carried the message of Jesus to every continent, sharing God's life and Spirit with everyone who heard it. And two thousand years later the same Spirit is with us.
- At anytime we can ask the Holy Spirit to be with us, at a time when we might feel like we might need to be a little braver, a little stronger, a little wiser, a little kinder or a better friend, we can call on the Holy Spirit. And like Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit is with us.

Discussion

- What are some times when you can ask the Holy Spirit to be with us?
- Can you think of a time recently when you asked or could have asked for the Holy Spirit? What happened?
- How does it feel to know that the same Holy Spirit that fell on the disciples at Pentecost is the same Holy Spirit who is with you, always.

