

PENTECOST SUNDAY YEAR A

THE GOSPEL John 20:19-23



Detail of Pentecost by El Greco (c 1600)

*And when he has said this, he breathed on
them and said to them,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.”*

Fiery
Spirit of Love,
O Father of the Poor,
Warmth in a Land of Chill,

Comforter of all of us: rich, poor,
prisoners of global violence,
breathe your life
into our dying hearts
and souls.

Now, more than ever
we need you to bestow upon us
knowledge, wisdom, understanding, courage.

Please send us out to the whole earth.

Let your fire
smoldering in us
light up all on our path.

We know that you hear us ...
“because your Spirit “ over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah!
bright wings.” G. M. Hopkins



THE FIRST READING Acts 2:1-11

*And suddenly there came from the sky a noise
like a strong driving wind.*



As fire surges in the wind,
you blow through
all creation.

Not just in that upper room,
in one place and time,
but everywhere.

Oh Spirit,
set our hearts on fire
every minute of every day.

Let us go with you to
the ends of the earth.

THE SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

*We do not know how to pray as we ought,
but the Spirit itself intercedes
with inexpressible groanings.*

Spirit of Jesus,
You know our prayers.
Take our sighs up to the Father.
Wrap our life around them.
Let our spirits cry out
in joyful harmony
with you:

Abba, Father! (Anne Osdieck)



Reflection: In a homily for Pentecost (2020), Pope Francis pointed out that despite the diversity of backgrounds and ethnicities among Christ's followers in the early Church, the Holy Spirit brings about unity by making them realize that they are primarily the children of God.

Saint Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians attests to this fact when he says, "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit."

Coming to our times, Pope Francis said that we too have our differences, such as opinions, choices, sensibilities. Much more than our beliefs and our morality, the Pope said, the Spirit unites us as "God's beloved children," and "that we have one Lord – Jesus – and one Father, and that for this reason we are brothers and sisters!"

Gift of self and proclamation

Taking a closer look at the day of Pentecost, Pope Francis said that the first task of the Church is *proclamation*. The Spirit does not want the Apostles to be locked in upper rooms. After Pentecost, the one thing that kept the Apostles going, was "the desire to give what they received". In the Church, the Pope said, the Spirit guarantees unity to those who proclaim the message.

If we realize that what we are is due to His free and unmerited gift, then "we too will want to make our lives a gift". "By loving humbly, serving freely and joyfully, we will offer to the world the true image of God."



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**
Acts 2.4