

PENTECOST SUNDAY



Come upon Us

Lord of life,
The world awaits your liberating Spirit.
Come, mighty wind, breathe new life
into us.
Come, Spirit of Truth,
reveal the evil that lingers in our midst.
Come, Wisdom of God,
teach us the way of righteousness.
Come, Fire of Love,
impassion us to act justly in all we do.
Come, Helper and Guide,
draw us together in fellowship
and peace.
Come, O Sanctifier, and make us holy.
Keep us forever united
with our loving and creating God,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 31, 2020

Today's Apostles



Today's Readings: Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23. For the past seven weeks, we have heard what the Apostles did after Jesus poured his Spirit out upon them. We have heard compelling speeches and listened to stories of healing and exorcism. We have witnessed the conversion of Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles. We have seen Paul, a fierce opponent of Jesus' followers, become an eloquent and passionate preacher of the Gospel. We have also heard stories of ridicule, expulsion, imprisonment, and martyrdom, yet in those moments, the Apostles rejoiced that they could glorify God by dying and rising with Jesus.

As our Easter season comes to an end and we conclude our reading of the Acts of the Apostles, we might think such

marvelous stories belong to the past. We might think we could never be such loving, courageous witnesses, we could never speak and act like those Apostles did. We would be wrong to think this. St. Paul tells us, "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."

Pentecost marked the beginning of the apostolic era, the era of the Church. We are still in that era. People still need to hear the story of salvation, still need healing, still need evil expelled from their midst. God pours his Spirit out upon us to transform and empower us, and then he sends us forth. We each have something to contribute to the story of salvation, for we are the apostles of this age.



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday, June 1

Mary, Mother of the Church

In the Gospel passage, Jesus ensures that his mother will be taken care of after his death. However, this passage also has a symbolic meaning. Throughout the Gospel, the Beloved Disciple has faithfully told us all that happened to Jesus so that we will believe in and worship Jesus as God's Son. Mary represents the Church, the community of believers who are continually strengthened by the witness of this disciple. As we strive to bear Christ in our world, we continue to draw strength and gain wisdom from the faithful witness of others. Pray the Rosary this week, and ask God to help you be a more faithful witness to God's love. *Today's Readings: Genesis 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14; John 19:25–34.*

Sunday, June 7

The Most Holy Trinity

Because the first Christians worshipped the Risen Christ as Lord, it soon became necessary to explain how Jesus and God the Father, as well as the Holy Spirit, were one God and not three different gods. There were intense discussions about the nature of God in the fourth and fifth centuries. The fruit of this process is the Nicene Creed, particularly the use of the title "Father."

The term *father* implies relationship. If God is a father, then there must be a child. In God's case, the child is a Son, Jesus. The relationship does not end there; it flows outward, bringing the world into existence and giving life to countless creatures. The Holy Spirit draws the world toward God so that we may become part of the divine relationship, part of God's eternal love. *Today's Readings: Exodus 34:4b–6, 8–9; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; 2 Corinthians 13:11–13; John 3:16–18.*

Sunday, June 14

The Body and Blood of Christ

When Jesus' followers gathered after his death and Resurrection to break bread and drink from the cup, they were doing something dangerous. Their Lord had been executed, and by gathering in his name they risked the same fate. They gathered nonetheless. By communing with the Risen Christ, they declared themselves part of his body and showed their willingness to suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

When we come forward during Communion, we are doing the same thing. By partaking of the consecrated bread and wine, we become part of Christ's Body. We commit ourselves to acting as Christ in the world, even to the point of suffering, maybe even shedding our blood, so that others will know of Christ's love for them. *Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 8:2–3, 14b–16a; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; John 6:51–58.*

Friday, June 19

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

In the First Reading, Moses reminds the Israelites that God bound himself to his people in a covenant, and they, in turn, must remain bound to God and God alone. St. John writes similarly in our Second Reading, urging us to remain bound to God by loving each other as God loves us, for God is love itself. Because we associate the human heart with love, it became natural to revere the heart of Jesus as the more particular embodiment of the Father's love.

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus tells us to yoke or bind ourselves to him. He invites us to live in a way that is not burdensome because it is the way of love and because he accompanies us every step of this way. We can trust him because we know that he has already bound himself to us in love. *Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 7:6–11; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8, 10; 1 John 4:7–16; Matthew 11:25–30.*

