

1-2-2024

## Pentecost - 19 May 2024

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### Recommended Citation

Moore, Gerard. "Pentecost - 19 May 2024." *Pastoral Liturgy* 54, no. 2 (2024): 1-6. <https://researchonline.nd.edu.au/pastoral-liturgy/vol54/iss2/22>

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# 19 May 2024

## Pentecost Sunday

Reflection by Gerard Moore

### Introduction

Pentecost announces the time of the Church. A time marked by the Spirit, sent to work in and through us to bring the Good News of God's love to all people.

### Penitential Act

Use one of the *Roman Missal* texts or this optional litany form:

Lord Jesus, you gave us your Spirit that we might have life. Lord have mercy.

You gift us with baptism in the Spirit. Christ have mercy.

You bring us into your new Creation. Lord have mercy.

### Collect

*The Oration*

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, God, for ever and ever.

This festal collect takes its inspiration from the day of Pentecost described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-3). It contains a sense of celebration that, across the breadth of the nations and the peoples, the Church is present. Indeed, the wholeness of the church embraces this diversity, and is sanctified throughout this richness. For a prayer emanating from seventh century Rome, this collect has a remarkable sense of the extent of the Church beyond local and imperial constraints. The petition has an evangelical thrust. It seeks first up that the gifts of the Spirit be spread across the face of the earth. These gifts need not be restricted to the seven that are usually brought to the fore at the time of Confirmation and based in Isaiah 11:2-3. They should also include those that were granted at that first Pentecost: such as the gift of tongues, preaching (Peter) and baptism. At that first outpouring, the

people gathered were 'cut to the heart' (Acts 2:37). Our prayer is asking that God, through the Spirit, revisit the hearts of the baptised and fill them again with this same love and enthusiasm.

### **Acknowledgement**

The discussion of the collect, slightly adapted, was composed by Gerard Moore for the Canadian liturgical journal *Celebrate!* (Novalis Press). Our thanks to them for permission to reuse the material.

## **First Reading**

### **Acts 2:1-11**

We hear them speaking in our own languages about the mighty works of God.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

### **Psalms 103(104):1, 24, 29-31, 34**

*Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*

The psalm praises the Spirit who brings life to all things.

## **Second Reading**

### **Galatians 5:16-25**

The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, generosity, faithfulness.

**OR**

### **1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13**

We have all been given the same Spirit to drink.

## **Gospel Reading**

### **John 15:26-27, 16:12-15**

It is the Spirit who guides us into truth.

**OR**

### **John 20:19-23**

The Spirit brings peace, forgiveness and joy.

## **Reflection**

The reflection for this feast carries through from the commentary for the celebration of the Ascension. Both liturgies are closely related: the return of Christ to the right hand of God, the breathing of the Spirit into the disciples by the risen Jesus and the tongues of flame speak of the one post resurrection event: the world has been turned upside down and will never be the same again.

There are important dynamics at play across the readings. In the narrative from Acts the believers are closed, almost closeted, in one place. Note they are all present. The Spirit is gifted to all members of the community. All are touched by the flames, all speak in different tongues, all are called to proclaim. Those looking on are not concerned about the noise, wind or flames. Rather they are able to hear in the language of their hearts the word of God proclaimed. All languages bear the message of the Spirit, all languages are vehicles for the mighty acts of God. And we as missionary disciples are to speak into all languages and find the Spirit present in the languages of others. This is a profoundly wonderful and disconcerting truth! Australia is home to so many indigenous languages. Each is precious, and already too many are lost. In particular, the Spirit reveals the mystery of God through languages and ultimately through culture. We have to be so careful that we do not restrict the unveiling of God through the hegemony of a dominant language or a dominating culture, or a dominion setting church.

The two Pauline options are also somewhat unsettling. Our gifts, our service, our faith and our preaching are from the one Spirit. Yet they are individual and differentiated. The Spirit gives differently to each. Our challenge is to recognise the gifts of another and work with them to build the one body. The Church has been so wasteful of gifts. It has been too quick to demarcate the roles of women and the roles of laity. It has been too controlling of initiatives and innovations. The work towards a synodal church and participative governance, slow as it may be, is recognition that we are all baptised into the one body of Christ, a body where labels of 'slave', 'free', 'male', 'female', 'Jew', 'Greek' have little purchase in the eyes of God.

A synodal Church will be known by its characteristics. Paul emphasises a list of Spirit fruits that are worth setting out in full: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. This is an unusual set of key performance indicators. Yet it is a way to give succour to the poor, care for the weak, welcome the outsider, and expand the meaning of the reign of God. There is an inclusivity in such a community, along with unexpected embrace of those who feel bereft and disrespected. There is discomfort and joy in living in the Spirit and following the Spirit.

There is a parallel between our Acts first reading and the Johannine appearance of the risen Jesus to the disciples. Both are closed in rooms, away from the people and the crowds. In John's telling of the story, the disciples are afraid and have locked the world out. The appearance of the risen Lord and their recognition of him serves to 'unlock' them. He brings the gift of peace, the power of recognition, and the life of the Spirit. Their reception of the Spirit is the reception of the power to forgive. They are agents in the Spirit of reconciliation.

The second Johannine option has a trinitarian reminder that the Spirit, the risen Lord and the Father are one. In them is the fulfillment of truth and of testimony. There is no room for fear. There is no stepping back from the ministry of reconciliation.

A final reflection: perhaps just as the risen Lord unlocked the disciples from their fear, may the feast of Pentecost unlock our church to embrace a new synodal form, and to embrace all those whom the Spirit brings to us in acceptance, belonging and empowerment.

# Prayer of the Faithful

## Introduction

People of God, the Spirit has given us many gifts and so we rely on our generous God in faith that all our needs will be granted.

## Petitions

We pray for the Church. May all the gifts of the Spirit be recognised in each person so that we can all work towards building the one body of Christ with men and women, clerical and lay.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray that we can all work towards a synodal Church with participative governance in recognition that we are all baptised into the one body of Christ.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for the leaders of all nations. May they be opened by the Spirit to value all of the peoples, their languages, their cultures and strive to live in peace.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for our community gathered here, that the feast of Pentecost will unlock us so that we can embrace the new synodal form and all those whom the Spirit brings to us in acceptance, belonging and empowerment.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all those who are suffering, that the Spirit will lift them through the care of others filled with compassionate grace.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those who go out into the world to spread the Good News of Pentecost. May they be strengthened by the Spirit to bring the reign of God to those they meet.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those who are grieving for loved ones who have died. May they be joyful in the knowledge that they are purified by the Spirit and share in eternal life.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

## Conclusion

God of life, you have enthused us with your Spirit and so in faith we know that our needs will be answered through that same Spirit and in the name of Jesus, the Christ.

**Amen.**

## Music selections by Alessio Loiacono and Chris deSilva

Title	AOV1	AOV2	CWB	CWBII	GA
Christians, lift up your hearts			651	355	
Come down, O love divine	118		653	381	375
Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come			654	382	376
Come Holy Spirit, live in us			649		
Diverse in culture, nation, race					520
Filled with the Spirit's power			676	385	
Forth in the peace of Christ we go			681	489	495
Gather your people, O Lord	71			490	530
Gifts of the Spirit				383	
Holy Spirit, come, confirm us			707	386	
Holy Spirit, God of light (Sequence)			317		
Holy Spirit, Lord divine				379, 380	
Holy Spirit, Lord of love			708	387	
O breathe on me, O breath of God			758	564	432
One bread, one body	129			579	193
Send down the fire		164		389	475
Send us as your blessing, Lord	181				
Take the word of God with you				607	494
The Spirit of God			832	388	185
The Spirit of the Lord			834		
There is one Lord (Alstott)		148			
There is one Lord (Berthier)					346
Veni, Creator Spiritus			851	391	373

Title	AOVNG	S&S1	S&S2
Bless the Lord	12		
Come, Holy Ghost			326
Come Holy Spirit (O'Brien)	27		
Come, Holy Spirit (Angotti)	28		
Come O Holy Spirit	30		
Holy Spirit		116	
Holy Spirit come	67		
Holy Spirit, come now.	68		
Lord, send out your Spirit			275
One Spirit, one church		132	
Send out your Spirit		79	
Send out your Spirit, Lord	111		
Veni, Creator Spiritus (Angotti)	141		
We wait for you			325

## Psalms Selected by Chris deSilva and Angela McCarthy

### Vigil

Psalm 103: *Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth./Alleluia.*

	<b>CWB</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>PM</b>
Psalm 103	315	62	pg. 82 or 86 new ed.

### Sunday

Psalm 103: *Lord send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth./Alleluia!*

	<b>CWB</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>JOBB</b>	<b>LPB</b>	<b>PM</b>
Psalm 103	316	62	pg. 45	pg. 80	pg. 82 or 86 new ed.

## Music selections by Michael Mangan

**Send out your spirit (FWS)** *Based on Ps 103/104* [Gathering, Gifts]

**Holy Spirit of fire (SHOF, CWBII)** [Gathering, Gifts, Recessional]

**Holy Spirit, come (TCS)** [Gifts, Communion]

**Come, O come, Holy Spirit (TWB)** [Gifts, Communion]

**Hearts on fire (SHOF)** [Gathering, Recessional]

**Holy Spirit rock (TT/SYJ)** [Recessional]

