



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

May 24, 2015 (Day of Pentecost)

GATHERING

O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all.

**You send forth Your Spirit –
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
Of counsel and strength,
Of knowledge and the fear of the LORD –
And Your creation is renewed.**

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
May the LORD be glad in His works.

**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.**

May our meditation be pleasing to Him,
For we rejoice in the LORD.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
Praise the LORD!**

– from Psalm 104 and Isaiah 11:2

Sing Unto the Lord a New Song

Sing unto the Lord a new song,
Sing unto the Lord all the earth.
Sing unto the Lord a new song,
Sing unto the Lord all the earth.

For God is great, and greatly to be praised.
God is great, and greatly to be praised!

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

O For a Thousand Tongues

O, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks, and, list'ning to His voice, new life the dead receive,
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.

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Readings: Acts 2:1-21 and Psalm 100

Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting....

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ...

Amazed and astonished, the crowd said, "How is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ...

In our own languages we hear them declaring the wonderful works of God."

Psalm 100

Readers in various languages



Acts 2:12-21

All were amazed and perplexed. And they asked one another,
“What does this mean?” ...

Peter addressed the crowd....

“This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel ...”

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Leader (after the readings): The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

O For a Thousand Tongues

He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

Glory to God, and praise and love be ever, ever given,
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us express our unity with the church of all ages on this Pentecost
Sunday by professing our faith in these words of the Heidelberg
Catechism:

**In his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit, Christ is not absent from
us for a moment.**

**By the Spirit’s power we make the goal of our lives not earthly
things, but the things above, where Christ is, sitting at God’s
right hand.**

**Through the Holy Spirit, Christ pours out his gifts from heaven
upon us his members.**

The Spirit, as well as the Father and the Son, is eternal God.

**The Spirit has been given to us personally, so that by true faith the
Spirit makes us share in Christ and all his blessings, comforts
us, and remains with us forever.**

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A’s 47, 49, 51, 53



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Jesus said, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, who abides with you and will be in you. He will teach you all things ... and He will guide you into all truth.”

Through the Spirit of Truth, who helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us according to the will of God, let us freely confess our sins to God.

– from John 14:16-17, 16:13, and Romans 8:26-27

[Silence]

Almighty God, You poured out Your Spirit upon the gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we too often hold back the force of Your Spirit among us. We do not listen for Your word of grace, speak the good news of Your love, or live as a people made one in Christ.

[Silence]

Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of Your Spirit and fill us with a glowing desire to be Your covenant people, doing Your will for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Public domain. Daniel Iverson.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the promise of God:

I will sprinkle you with clean water and you will be clean.

*I will give you a new heart
and put a new spirit within you.*

I will remove from you your heart of stone,
and give you a heart of flesh.

*And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My
statutes, and you will keep My ways.*

You will be My people, and I will be your God. —from Ezekiel 36:25-29

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Gracious and loving God, we acknowledge that You have opened up Heaven and rained down Your blessings in amazing ways, over and over.

[Spontaneous words and prayers of praise and thanksgiving]

**And now we gratefully offer ourselves, all we are and all we have,
as a reflection of Your love and expressions of our worship. Amen.**

Holy Spirit, Rain Down

Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down;
O Comforter and Friend, how we need Your touch again.
Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down;
Let Your power fall, let Your voice be heard;
Come and change our hearts as we stand on Your word;
Holy Spirit, rain down.

No eye has seen, no ear has heard;
No mind can know what God has in store,
So open up Heaven, open it wide,
Over Your church, and over our lives.

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THE WORD

John 15:26-27

John 16:4b-15

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heav'n.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are Yours.
Now and forever, Amen.

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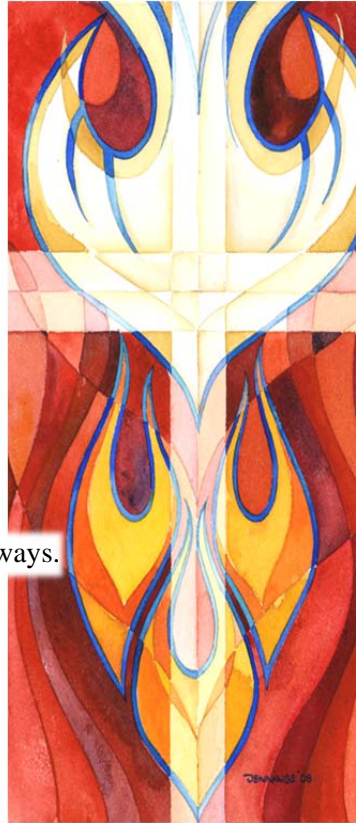
Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord
Come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for Your purity;
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within,
May Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin,
In each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace;
Turn my strivings into works of grace;
Breath of God show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth,
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our pray'rs arise;
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see.

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Stuart Townend and Keith Getty.



Holy Spirit, Mark Jennings, 2008

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



O For A Thousand Tongues

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim;
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

Glory to God, and praise and love be ever, ever given,
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

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Benediction:

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through
the Holy Spirit of promise, who was given to us and who has
sealed us in Him, to the praise of His glory.**

Since we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit,
going forth into the world, and walking out our baptisms,
to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

—Romans 15:13, 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14; Galatians 5:25

A thought about worship...

“Pentecost Sunday ends the extraordinary season that began on the first Sunday of Advent. In approximately six months the church has been carried through all the saving events of God—his incarnation, manifestation to the world, life, death, resurrection, and ascension as well as the coming of the Holy Spirit. All these crucial events form faith and the spiritual life. . . . Broadly speaking, Pentecost brings understanding to the followers of Jesus, empowers them in ministry, establishes the church, and points to the end of history when the kingdom of Christ will be established over all the earth.” Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004), 163, 161.

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Prayer of confession adapted and reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook*, ©2004 CRC Publications.

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community
www.Epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113
Sunday mornings at The Carmichael Chapel, 4600 Winding Way
(Corner of Winding Way and Pasadena), Sacramento, CA 95841.
Informal gathering: 10:00 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM.

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