

ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH
THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD
READINGS FOR MAY 24, 2026
THE DAY OF PENTECOST
WHITSUNDAY

THE COLLECT:

FOR A CHURCH CONVENTION: SYNOD

Almighty and everlasting Father, you have given the Holy Spirit to abide with us forever: Bless, we pray, with His grace and presence, the bishops and other clergy and the laity here assembled in your Name, that your Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may fulfil all the mind of Him who loved it and gave Himself for it, your Son Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

DAY OF PENTECOST – WHITSUNDAY

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns

with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

or this

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING ACTS 2:1-21

It is now fifty days since the Resurrection. Many pilgrims have come to Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks. Luke, the author of Acts, tries to describe the coming of the Holy Spirit, but all he can say is what it is like. Divinity, to some extent, is beyond our experience and comprehension.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of Acts, Chapter 2, beginning at the first verse.

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 violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and
glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
shall be saved.' "

The Word of the Lord

The people: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104:25-35, 37B

***This psalm describes the wonders of the world created
and renewed by the Lord's spirit.***

25 O LORD, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

- 26 Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.
- 27 There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.
- 28 All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.
- 29 You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good
things.
- 30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.
- 31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.
- 32 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; *
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.
- 33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; *
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- 34 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.
- 35 May these words of mine please him; *
I will rejoice in the Lord.
- 37 Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son:*
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:*
and shall be forever. **Amen.**

THE SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3B-13

Early in this letter, Paul has noted that the Christians at Corinth “are not lacking in any spiritual gift”; even so, they appear to have written to him on the subject. He now teaches them more about gifts provided through the Holy Spirit.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 12, beginning at the third verse.

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of

healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

The people: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL JOHN 20:19-23

Early on Easter Day, Mary Magdalene has discovered that Jesus' body is missing from the tomb. There is a man standing nearby. When he speaks to her, she recognizes him as Jesus. She has told the disciples: "I have seen the Lord." Now Jesus appear in his resurrection body.

Gospeler: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Gospeler: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to Christ Our Saviour.

Chorus: *by Church and Choir*

Fire, fire, fire, fire fall on me

Fire, fire, fire, fire fall on me

On the day of Pentecost,

fire fall on me

On the day of Pentecost,

fire fall on me.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

This is the Gospel of Christ

The people: Praise to Christ our Lord.

(NRSV)

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