

COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION
SUNDAY 5 June 2022, PENTECOST

COLLECT

God, who as at this time
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 judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Psalm 104.26–36,37b*

- 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! ♦
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide, ♦
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan ♦
which you have made to play in the deep.
- 29 All of these look to you ♦
to give them their food in due season.
- 30 When you give it them, they gather it; ♦
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled; ♦
when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, ♦
and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; ♦
may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- 34 He looks on the earth and it trembles; ♦
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
- 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; ♦
I will make music to my God while I have my being.
- 36 So shall my song please him ♦
while I rejoice in the Lord.
- 37 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth and the wicked be no more. ♦
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.

Acts 2.1–21

2 ¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' ¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "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.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 14.8-17

⁸Philip said to Jesus, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

A Reflection by Peter...

Some people are great at striking up a conversation with complete strangers; others are terrified at the very thought of something so risky. All of us are a bit nervous when doing something for the first time: beginning a new job, moving to a new place, going for an interview. The root of our nervousness is simply the unknown. As yet, there is nothing in us that has experienced this situation, these people, this place. And here is just one of the many differences between us and God. We can become at ease in a place, we can learn to be comfortable with people who were once strangers, but it takes work and patience. God is always at home everywhere. God knows everyone and everything intimately. God has no anxiety about how to approach a situation, but knows exactly what to say and do. We see this in so many Gospel encounters – and especially in that remarkable conversation between Jesus and the woman he meets at the well. You remember that she goes off and tells her friends, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!" This week we are not only celebrating the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, but also the great feast of Pentecost, the giving of the Holy Spirit. Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, showed us the Father (though that doesn't stop Philip asking "Lord, show us the Father! Nor does it stop Jesus' slightly exasperated response: "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?")

Now, as part of God's new creation that flows from the miracle of Resurrection, God pours out that same Spirit on all who believe. Just as Jesus revealed the Father to us, so we too are empowered to speak the Word of God. There is sometimes a tendency to think that the presence of the Spirit requires dramatic signs. St John suggests rather that the gift of the Spirit is simply to make us more Christ-like: more secure in the presence of God, more at peace with ourselves and freer to attend to the true needs of others. Then, the gifts of the Spirit abound – those gifts of love and joy and peace. And we are surely right to recognise those gifts of the Spirit in the Queen, a woman of faith, who patiently abides in the truth and continues to give an example of faith and hope to us all.