

Pentecost 2020

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

[And also with you.]

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He risen indeed. Alleluia.

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord
and we have walked with him through his journey of love.
We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross.
We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death.
We have enjoyed his risen presence with us
and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread.
We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow
and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord.
And now, with the followers of his own time,
we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people,
through whom we make Christ known to the world.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:

Thy blessèd unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight:

Anoint and cheer our soilèd face
with the abundance of thy grace:
keep far from foes, give peace at home:
where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One;
that through the ages all along,
this may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2: 1-13)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they 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."

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Let us invite the Holy Spirit to renew us:

Be with us, Spirit of God;
nothing can separate us from your love.

Breathe on us, breath of God;
fill us with your saving power.

Speak in us, wisdom of God;
bring strength, healing, and peace.

Generous God, thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit.
Strengthen us to serve you better; especially where our spirits are flagging and we try to do things in our own strength.

Thank you for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

We pray for our leaders at home and abroad. Give them wisdom to cope with the difficult decisions they have to make, to build up for good.

Thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit.

May all those who are troubled, in body or in mind, know your deep peace resting with them. We pray for those who have recently lost a loved one, especially the family and friends of Don Cooksley, John McIver and Doreen Hick. Let their hearts be filled with your peace and assurance.

Thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit.

Bring your reconciliation and wholeness into all those places where there is division, sickness and sorrow. We pray for our wounded world; for the people in Yemen, suffering from the impact of war; starvation, displacement and now coronavirus. We pray for the situation in Minneapolis, healing in the unrest following the death of an unarmed black man in custody.

Thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit, given to us all by the risen Lord Jesus.

Inspire the whole Church, with your life and joy, in this world and the next. We pray for our church leaders, especially at this time when our new Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, prepares for his installation, and also our new Bishop of Chester, Bishop Mark.

May the flame of your Holy Spirit rest on each of us.

We pray that the Spirit will work through our lives to bring Christ to the world.

Our Collect for this day of Pentecost:

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Today we have remembered the coming of God's power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

Filled with the Spirit's power,
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.