

# Read

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30,  
31, 34

Romans 8:8-17 or

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

John 14:15-16, 23b-26 or  
John 20:19-23



## REFLECTION

The Spirit Jesus breathes upon the apostles in today's Gospel (John 20:19-23) is also given to us in the sacraments. We are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This relationship we enter into with God in baptism deepens at confirmation, when we are strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the truth of Christ's salvation in our all actions and to the whole world.

When Jesus says, "Receive the holy Spirit" (John 20:22), what does he mean? What are we opening ourselves to? The Church associates the following gifts with the Holy Spirit:

- \* Wisdom
- \* Understanding
- \* Knowledge
- \* Counsel
- \* Fortitude
- \* Piety
- \* Fear of the Lord

This is certainly not an exhaustive list of all the ways the Holy Spirit works in our lives and draws us closer to God. Each person is guided by the Holy Spirit, as we strive to live lives of service and discipleship. The Holy Spirit also guides the church as a whole, empowering us with the grace needed to keep proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

# LIVING THE WORD

## Pentecost Sunday

June 5, 2022

## ACTION

Pentecost is a day to celebrate the many ways the Holy Spirit is active in our lives and in the world around us. How often do you pray to the Holy Spirit? Much of our liturgical prayer focuses on God the Creator and Jesus Christ. This week, try memorizing this traditional prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of your faithful. Kindle in us the fire of your love."



### "Veni, Sancte Spiritus"

—Taizé

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1fR4SV55qg>

## QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What memories do you have of your confirmation? Or, what are you most looking forward to about being confirmed?
- ❖ Which gift of the Holy Spirit do you most identify with? Why?





June 5, 2022

# PENTECOST SUNDAY

## LECTIONARY #63C

Mass during the Day

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

Romans 8:8-17 or 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Sequence: *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*

John 14:15-16, 23b-26 or John 20:19-23

## Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

### Leader's Context

Jesus loved the disciples very much, and he didn't want to leave them without his presence on earth. When Jesus returned to heaven at his ascension he did not leave us alone to fend for ourselves—he left us with access to him. First of all, he left us the Eucharist, which he instituted before his death. He also left us with the Holy Spirit who would guide the Church throughout history. When the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, it was a time of massive transition—with Jesus ascending to heaven the disciples began to carry on his mission without Jesus standing with them. The apostles handed on the teachings of Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit by creating new bishops and priests to lead the Church. The Holy Spirit guides the Church today and guides each baptized person to a closer relationship with God.

**Q FOCUS:** *Jesus gave the Church into the care and guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

Today we celebrate the end of the Easter season. Everything in the Church's liturgical year is oriented toward the celebration of the resurrection at Easter, so much so that we celebrate this salvific event with a season that lasts fifty days! Ordinary Time begins the day after Pentecost, and the Church remains in that

season until Advent. As an Easter people, people whose lives are grounded in the resurrection, we carry its joy and hope with us through all liturgical seasons. This coming week we remember St. Norbert (June 6), who founded the Norbertines, a religious order of canons regular (priests who are part of an order) and sisters who are devoted educators in the modern world. On June 9 we remember St. Ephrem of Syria, who was a great spiritual writer and composed many hymn texts to help people learn the faith. Ephrem is a doctor of the Church.

### Church Teaching Connection

"The Spirit dwells in the church and in the hearts of the faithful, as in a temple (see 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19), prays and bears witness in them that they are his adopted children (see Gal 4:6; Rom 8:15-16 and 26). He guides the church in the way of all truth (see Jn 16:13) and, uniting it in fellowship and ministry, bestows upon it different hierarchical and charismatic gifts, and in this way directs and adorns it with his fruits (see Eph 4:11-12; 1 Cor 12:4; Gal 5:22). By the power of the Gospel he rejuvenates the church, constantly renewing it and leading it to perfect union with its spouse [Christ]" (*Lumen gentium*, 4).

## Hear the Word

Use this resource, a lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

### Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

John 14:15-16, 23b-26

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.



Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.

"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

"I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

Perhaps you've experienced transitions in your life when changing schools or moving to a new city. Some of these transitions might be joyful, like the addition of a new sibling to your family, or a new after-school job that you enjoy. Other transitions may be exciting, like starting classes at a new school, or traveling somewhere you've never been. Still other transitions may be sad and difficult, like losing a grandparent or moving to a new town when you were happy in your old town.

### ► What transitions have you experienced in your life?

While transitions can carry many different emotions with them, they have something in common: they are times of change. In today's Gospel reading we hear about the coming of a tremendous change for Jesus and his followers. Jesus would ascend into heaven and leave his disciples on earth. The disciples would enter a new phase of their life and

ministry; instead of being guided by in person by Jesus, the disciples would be guided by the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew this transition would occur, and he explained that the Holy Spirit would be an Advocate sent in Jesus' own name, and that the Holy Spirit would remind the disciples of Jesus' teaching.

### ► Why would the disciples need the Holy Spirit? Why would they need guidance when they had memories?

The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and stayed with them. The Holy Spirit helped the apostles minister to the people and lead others to Christ. Through the discernment of the Spirit, the apostles helped others realize their call to leadership in the early Church, creating bishops and priests to minister to the needs of the community. The Holy Spirit continued the work as the Advocate and guide to the new bishops. The Spirit guided the early Church as she formed new Christians in Jesus' teaching and in liturgy, and in the formation of Church teaching in the apostolic tradition of the Church. Jesus did not desire for his Church to flounder or be without him. This is why we need the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost, our commemoration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, marks the birthday of the Church. The leadership of the Church was established, and the Holy Spirit was promised to them and came to guide them in the mission. The Holy Spirit continues to inspire and guide the mission of the Church today. Despite the sin and error of the people in the Church, the Church herself has never taught heresy. She has formed right and true doctrine, and has developed her teaching over time to help people come to a deeper understanding of its truths and our relationship with God.

The Holy Spirit is with us too; at our baptism and confirmation we receive the Spirit and are imbued with its gifts and strengths so that we might follow in Jesus' footsteps. The sacraments of the Church give grace and they help us to grow in holiness, with the Holy Spirit as our guide.

### ► Have you ever felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life, leading you to better choices in your actions or to a deeper relationship with God?



## Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 200.

**Transitions are a time of change, and Pentecost was a time of transition for the disciples.**

**Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come to his followers to help them remember Jesus' teachings.**

**The Holy Spirit guides the Church in grace and truth.**

## Act on the Word

### Hearing and Listening to the Holy Spirit

*For this activity, you will need paper, pens, and books on the lives of the saints or access to the internet.*

In this activity, the young people will discuss what it means to hear and listen to the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised us that he would send the Holy Spirit, an advocate and guide, to the Church. The Church is guided by the Holy Spirit, and our Church's tradition and teaching are determined by our bishops and the pope cooperating with the urging of the Holy Spirit. The laity too participate in the life of the Church and we are called to cooperate with God.

In the Bible we read about Moses, who communicated directly with God, the prophets who spoke God's Word, and Mary and Joseph, who heard from God's messengers. However, the vast majority of faithful people will not hear from angels, and they will not receive God's Word on stone tablets. Instead, we hear from God in quieter, less dramatic ways. We

hear God through Scripture and through the teaching of the Church. We hear God in prayer, and we hear him in our own consciences, because God has written moral laws on our hearts.

In this exercise, break into pairs or small groups. Ask the teens to discuss the different ways they have heard about people having extraordinary communication with God, angels, or the saints; examples would include people like St. Paul in the New Testament, St. Bernadette, and the three children from Fatima. Ask the young people to also discuss and find examples of people who had a quieter experience of the Holy Spirit, such as St. Thérèse of Lisieux and St. Mother Teresa. Have the teens write down some attributes of the different saints and how they listened to the Holy Spirit. Conclude by having them share their findings with the large group.

### Closing Prayer

*Spirit of the Living God,*

*fall afresh on us*

*and remold us into your image.*

*Guide us along the ways of love*

*and help us to serve you earnestly*

*as we learn new ways of living*

*that strengthen our faith.*

*Through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

### For Next Sunday

*To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.*