

The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Jn 14:15-16, 23-26  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.*  
Jesus said to his disciples:  
‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.  
I shall ask the Father  
and he will give you another Advocate  
to be with you for ever.  
‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him  
and make our home with him.  
Those who do not love me do not keep my words.  
And my word is not my own;  
it is the word of the one who sent me.  
I have said these things to you  
while still with you;  
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,  
whom the Father will send in my name,  
will teach you everything  
and remind you of all I have said to you.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word

**‘PEACE BE WITH YOU’**

We live in a world of fear. It surrounds us: the political aggression evident globally, the social issues that depress, even personal challenges that come from relationships and life choices. The fear of tumultuous unrest or personal failure dominates our hearts at times.

Today’s Gospel offers us a calming voice. Pentecost is a celebration of God’s Spirit present, efficacious and penetrating—even into those areas of life and our world that seem so strained, tense and violent. Jesus comes into a room of fearful disciples. They are afraid of the religious authorities—what they did to Jesus could also happen to them. Into their midst the Risen Jesus comes. He stands *among* them, not away from them, or outside them. But *in* the midst of their fears. Twice he offers them the word that they need to hear, ‘Peace be with you.’ It’s a word that we need to hear personally, and that the world needs to know.

‘Peace’ comes from the gift of Jesus’ own spirit. His reassurance of his presence, the evidence of his suffering before them in his wounds, and his gift of peace is a strong affirmation. ‘Peace’, ‘shalom’ in Hebrew, is a prayer for wholeness in the midst of fear and suffering. It is the gift that Jesus wants for us, and for the world. The Gospel ends with the invitation to mission, to spread this peace that brings wholeness and forgiveness of sin.

**Fr Michael Trainor**



# THE SAVING WORD

PENTECOST SUNDAY / C

8 JUNE 2025

**FIRST READING**

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.*

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. ‘Surely’ they said ‘all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.’

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESP PSALM**

Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34. R. v. 30

**R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (or Alleluia!)**

1. Bless the Lord, my soul! / Lord God, how great you are! / How many are your works, O Lord! / The earth is full of your riches. **R.**
2. You take back your spirit, they die, / returning to the dust from which they came. / You send forth your spirit, they are created; / and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**



3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever! / May the Lord rejoice in his works! / May my thoughts be pleasing to him. / I find my joy in the Lord. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Rom 8:8-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’