

A Short Act of Worship for Sunday 23 May (Pentecost)

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

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove:
teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the Saviour's love!*

*You spoke to us - long, long ago - gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth, through it God's voice is heard.*

*Without your help we fail our Lord, we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength, following Christ each day.*

A pause for reflection ...

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy.
You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart: Christ, have mercy.
You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided: Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's Word:

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.' 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."

(Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-21)

*Spirit of holiness, wisdom and faithfulness, wind of the Lord, blowing strongly and free:
strength of our serving and joy of our worshipping, Spirit of God, bring your fulness to me!*

*You came to interpret and teach us effectively all that the Saviour has spoken and done;
to glorify Jesus is all your activity, promise and gift of the Father and Son:*

You came with your gifts to supply all our poverty, pouring your love on the church in her need; you came with your fruit for our growth to maturity, richly refreshing the souls that you feed:

You came to the world in its pride and futility, warning of dangers, directing us home; now with us and in us, we welcome your company; Spirit of Christ, in his name you have come:

Our prayers:

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit. Generous God, we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit. We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.

We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to equip us for the work which you've given us.

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit, given us by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed, in the joy of eternal life.

Generous God, you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan, and upon the disciples in the upper room: in your mercy fill us with your Spirit, hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

A pause for silence prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name ...

(or)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name ...

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

The Spirit lives to set us free, walk, walk in the light. He binds us all in unity, walk, walk in the light. Walk in the light, walk in the light, walk in the light, walk in the light of the Lord.

*By Jesus' love our wounds are healed, walk, walk in the light;
The Father's kindness is revealed, walk, walk in the light;*

The Spirit lives in you and me, walk, walk in the light; his light will shine for all to see, walk, walk in the light.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, through the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

Filled with the Spirit's power, we go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.