

MAY 28, 2023  
PENTECOST SUNDAY



*The Holy Spirit breathes new life into us.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The coming of the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Acts 2:37-42	The first converts
Thursday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Christ's love for us
Friday	1 John 4:13-21	God is love
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	God the creator
Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."* **John 20:22-23 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty and living God, we thank you for Jesus and the Holy Spirit that sends us out as the body of Christ with the power to forgive in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food; when you open your hand, you fill us with good things through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Amen. (Psalm 104:28)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Holy Spirit fill you with new life, and abundant joy.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Spirit of Gentleness*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What gets in the way of forgiving someone or asking for forgiveness from someone?
- How does forgiveness breathe new life into bruised relationships?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 20:19-23.

This story is sometimes called "the Johannine Pentecost" and different from the Pentecost story in Acts 2. In John 20, Jesus gives his Spirit, that is, the Holy Spirit, on Easter Day during his first appearance following the resurrection. The giving of Jesus' breath (same word as spirit in the original Greek) is the culmination of the promise of the Holy Spirit since the time of Jesus' baptism and referred to throughout the Gospel of John. The critical point is that "*the Spirit of truth*" (John 14:16-17) will teach Jesus' followers everything they need to know and remember from Jesus' own teaching (14:26). The Spirit glorifies Jesus (16:14) by creating the community that is sent out into the world to love the world in Jesus' name. The Holy Spirit creates a new community to love the world by forgiving others and breathes new life into relationships. This glorifies Jesus by doing the ministry of his resurrection right now with love, hope, and forgiveness.

*Discuss:* In what ways do you and the larger faith community spread Jesus' message of forgiveness and peace to others?

*Pray:* **Dear God, for the gift of the Holy Spirit that empowers us with the ministry of Christ for the world, we give you our thanks and praise. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve and show forgiveness toward others?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The miracle of the story of Pentecost is that the apostles were "*filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability*" (Acts 2:4). It represents the birth of each person hearing the gospel in their own language. Celebrate as you would any other birthday. Consider using red candles and balloons (the liturgical color for Pentecost Sunday) for decorations. Make a cake and place red candles on the cake. Light the candles as a reminder of the fiery tongues that descended on the apostles and sing Happy Birthday to the church. As you are enjoying the cake, think or talk about who taught you about the church.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)