

# Sunday Liturgy of the Word

## @ Home

### GATHER

- Prepare by tidying the room, finding a Bible and crucifix and lighting a candle as a reminder of God's presence.
- Take a moment to allow what is in your heart to rise, and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord.
- Make the sign of the cross.
- Sing or listen to '[Send us your Spirit](#)' or '[Receive the Power](#)'.

### PRAY FOR MERCY

For the times when we have not loved God as God loves us.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For the times when we have not forgiven as God forgives us.  
*Christ, have mercy.*

For the times when we have not been thankful for all God's gifts.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and lead us to life everlasting. *Amen.*

### READ

(Visit [universalis.com](http://universalis.com) for readings at Mass.)

**First reading** Acts 2:1–11

**Responsorial psalm** Psalm 103(104):1, 24, 29–31, 34

*R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*

**Second reading** 1 Corinthians 12:3–7, 12–13

### Gospel acclamation

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

### GOSPEL

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

—John 20:19–23

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### REFLECT

(See also [melbournecatholic.org.au/easter](http://melbournecatholic.org.au/easter).)

#### For adults

*A mighty wind invades the world,  
So strong and free on beating wing:  
It is the Spirit of the Lord  
From whom all truth and freedom spring.*

These verses, from a Pentecost hymn, proclaim the strength of the Holy Spirit that came upon the apostles. God's presence does not bring a spirit of timidity (2 Timothy 1:7) but an invading wind or a powerfully beating wing.

Many artistic depictions of the Pentecost disciples, with little 'tea lights' on their foreheads, don't seem to capture the mighty presence of God that came upon the apostles in that upper room. The powerfully beating wing of the Spirit is scary in its strength.

Why is the Pentecost celebration so crucial to our spiritual lives? It is the 'no excuse' spiritual event. St Paul reminds the community at Ephesus that they have been given 'every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places' (Ephesians 1:3). There is no excuse; baptised Christians with God's healing and transforming grace are all set to go. Nothing else is needed but their commitment to the task.

Since we have been created in God's image and have been given all the gifts we need, we can now become participants in God's divine nature, which is the aim of all human life.

- How can we use the strength of the Holy Spirit today?
- If we have every spiritual blessing, what's stopping us?

#### For children

- Today is our church birthday! We remember Jesus keeping his promise to send us the Holy Spirit. I wonder what you know about the Holy Spirit.
- One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to be able to speak God's words and be understood. I wonder if you have ever been able to share something and you were understood.

### PRAY

#### The Creed ...

#### For ourselves, the world and the church

We pray for Pope Francis and all church leaders. May the Holy Spirit inspire them with a deep spirit of service, enabling the church to renew the face of the earth. Lord hear us.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for our faith community. May we each recognise the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us and use them for our good and the betterment of others. Lord hear us.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Take a moment to offer your own prayers to God ...

#### Our Father ...

#### The blessing

May God bless and keep us. May God's face shine on us. May God be kind to us and give us peace.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
*Amen.*