

May 28, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

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ALL WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

TODAY'S FIRST READING

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

Reflection

On the Jewish festival of Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Passover, many devout Jewish pilgrims from every nation were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate their covenant with God when they received the Law on Mt. Sinai. In the passage above (Acts 2), the Apostles and many disciples of Jesus were also gathered in the upstairs room where they were lodging, waiting and praying for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. Everyone was startled by the sound of a strong wind that filled the house where they were. To the Jews, wind was always associated with Spirit. Then the disciples saw “tongues as of fire” which rested on each one of them: they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages. When the disciples spoke to the Jews visiting Jerusalem from many nations, the disciples were understood because the Holy Spirit enabled them to speak in the languages of the visitors. These men and women from Galilee were understood by everyone who listened to them preach, proclaiming the wonderful works of God.

And this same Holy Spirit is given to each of us in our Baptism. Let us ponder this incredible gift abiding within us, enabling us to pray when we don't know how, and to share the Spirit of Christ with everyone we meet.



A stained glass window depicts the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
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A Powerful Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Veni, Sancte Spiritus (Come, Holy Spirit) is a medieval Sequence sung in the Roman Liturgy on Pentecost Sunday and during the following weekdays at mass. This great masterpiece of sacred Latin poetry marks the transition from Eastertide to Ordinary Time. Prayerfully, we are invited to take some time to read the verses of this ancient prayer and notice which lines speak to our inward being. Is there a phrase which expresses the deepest desire of your soul?

*Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away;
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end.
Amen.
Alleluia.*

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