

A Liturgy of the Eucharist for the Day of Pentecost



All Saints Church, Birkenhead

A PENTECOST REFLECTION

Pentecost (from the Greek pentekoste, 'fiftieth' of fifty days of celebration) has its roots in the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which was completed on the fiftieth day after Passover. On the fiftieth day of Easter, God sends his Holy Spirit to empower the Church to perform the mission which the risen Christ has entrusted to it; and he inaugurates the messianic community of perfect communication.

Pentecost celebrates both the Holy Spirit and the Christian Church. It was originally the crown and completion of the Easter season; only later, in the medieval West, did it become a new festival season of its own. After the Easter Vigil, the time of Pentecost was a preferred occasion for baptism in early Christian centuries, and the services of Pentecost also reflect this baptismal theme. Christ's disciples are born again of water and the spirit.

There is some evidence that the ascension was first celebrated on the fiftieth day of Easter, but it was soon moved to the fortieth day in faithfulness to Luke's chronology. Ascension and Pentecost are closely linked. The risen Lord is no longer present to the Church in the body of his flesh; the Church is now to be the new body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Spirit. The Sunday after Pentecost came to be kept in the West as Trinity Sunday, although it was not prescribed as a universal feast until 1334. In a sense, every feast must be a festival of the Trinity, because the whole Trinity is at work in every moment of creation, redemption and sanctification; but Trinity Sunday provides a particular occasion to reflect on the revelation of God's self as Trinity, immediately after the Great Fifty Days of Easter.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather in the name of God: ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Amen

Grace and peace to you from God.
God fill you with truth and joy.

RESPONSORY

As we wait in silence,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we listen to your word,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we worship you in majesty,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we long for your refreshing,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we long for your renewing,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we long for your equipping,
fill us with your Spirit.
As we long for your empowering,
fill us with your Spirit

Silence is kept

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts
The word of Christ dwell in us richly

*We turn to our service sheet for the **Sentence & Collect***

THE READINGS

After each reading the response is

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God

*A **Hymn** may be sung*

*We stand for the **Gospel** reading*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.
Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.
Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to...

✠ Praise and Glory to God

After the Gospel, the reader says

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ the Word

THE SERMON

Following The Sermon we keep silence

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand together

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The presiding priest says:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

THE PEACE

We stand together

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

*We sing a **Hymn** as the bread & wine and the gifts of the people are brought to the altar*

Blessed are you, God of all creation;
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
And for the service of your kingdom
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here
God's Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to offer thanks and praise

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,
almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and
in all places to give you thanks and praise
through Christ your only Son.

This day we give you thanks because
in fulfilment of your promise
you pour out your Spirit upon us,
filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,
and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith.
Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,
to proclaim your gospel to all nations
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels, and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells, to proclaim the glory of your name, for ever praising you and saying/singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Please sit or kneel

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;
on the night before he died
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;
when he had given you thanks, he broke it,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;
when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new
covenant which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins;
do this as often as you drink it, to remember me:

Glory to you, Lord Christ;
your death we show forth;
your resurrection we proclaim;
your coming we await,
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

Therefore loving God,
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his
coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this
bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving, which we offer through Christ
our great high priest.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the
body and blood of Christ,
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed
for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, O God,
in songs of everlasting praise:

✠ **B**lessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and for ever. Amen.

Silence is kept

Being made one by the power of the Spirit, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray / sing:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

The presiding priest breaks the bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.

We say/sing together:

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The presiding priest and the people receive communion

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING OF LIGHT

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love. With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit. Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer. Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word; the young receive visions, the old receive dreams. With the new wine of the Spirit they proclaim your reign of love. Amid the birth pangs of the new creation the way of light is made known. Source of freedom, giver of life, blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

A Final Hymn may be sung

During the hymn our candles will be lit.

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us. As part of God's Church here in Birkenhead, I call upon you to live out what you proclaim. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

By the Spirit's power, we will.

A ✠ Blessing is given...

We are sent out with these words

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

You may extinguish your candle and leave on the table in the foyer as you exit

*You are warmly invited to share Morning Tea in the Hall following the
9.30am service*