

Pentecost

Things to prepare

- The Bible – the reading from The Acts of the Apostles 2, 1-11 and John 20, 19-23
- A lit candle
- The table or place where the Bible and candle are placed, is covered with red material
- A Picture of the fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Laptop / computer with the links:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M&t=34s>
Ending song (choose one):
Holy Spirit fill me up <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7GDwNd6uTU>
Spirit of God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOHbZxjOmG0>
Holy Spirit
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zARVp3420I>
Prayers (beginning and end)
- A candle for each person

Before we begin, we put aside the mobile phones and anything that may cause distraction.

Opening prayer

We remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

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

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Lord God, we ask you to send your Holy Spirit on our family so that we have the courage and eagerness to do your will.

Today we celebrate the birthday of the Church! It is Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descends on the disciples. It is fifty days from Easter, and today, we end Easter Time.

In today's reading we see that the apostles are frightened, but when they receive the Holy Spirit they are filled with courage and they set forth to preach the Good News and lead others to encounter Jesus.

A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles

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 travellers 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.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

A reading from the Gospel according to John
Glory to you, O Lord

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection and questions

The gospel says that the apostles were together, but they were afraid. When was the last time that you felt afraid? How did you manage to overcome this fear?

We heard that when the apostles noticed that it was Jesus, they were happy. So, being friends with Jesus makes us happy. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles, courage. He does the same with us. He also gives us help through the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, piety, right judgement, fortitude, and fear of God. When we allow the Holy Spirit to do his will, we will be gifted with beautiful qualities: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, and modesty.

We pass the picture of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to all those present. Each person chooses one of the fruits and shares his thoughts about how he/she lives this quality (we can help in the choice and explanation of words, as needed).

Conclusion

When Jesus entered near the apostles, he said “Peace be with you”, with love, let us give each other a sign of peace.

Each holds a candle.

Jesus, fire destroys everything that is in its path. Remove from us all that is not pleasing to you. Fire also provides warmth. In winter, it gathers us together around heaters, in Summer we gather around BBQs. Jesus, unite our family and help us to be a good example to others.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

God grant us:

The Spirit of Wisdom, that we may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal,

The Spirit of Understanding, to enlighten our minds with the light of your divine truth,

The Spirit of Counsel, that we may always choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven,

The Spirit of Fortitude, that we may bear our Cross with you and we may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose our salvation,

The Spirit of Knowledge, that we may know God and ourselves, and grow perfect in the science of the Saints,

The Spirit of Piety, that we may find the Service of God sweet and amiable,

And the Spirit of Fear, that we may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease him.

We conclude with the song which was previously chosen.

- Today it is the Church’s birthday, let us celebrate with cake and time together.
- During this week, put the picture of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, in a place where it can be seen, so that everyone remembers how he/she can become better.

Red is the symbol of fire, love, and witness of those who gave up their lives because of their faith. Red is used for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost, and feasts of martyrs.

