

# Lessons & Carols for Pentecost

## Introduction & Bidding

Dear People of God: On this Feast of Pentecost, it is our responsibility and joy to search the Scriptures for its testimony to God's Holy Spirit, present in the world since the moment of creation. Let us hear and heed how this Spirit inspired prophets and sages, to be proclaimed in psalms and stories. Let us rejoice at the promise that God's spirit would someday fill the whole earth, and exalt as the wind and fire of that Spirit was made manifest to the disciples gathered together on this great day. And let us sing as our hearts are made glad by this witness to God's great goodness.

Let this testimony inspire us to call upon this same Spirit, now present among us, as we renew our commitment to the work God has given us to do. Let us pray in the power of the Spirit for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which our Lord died, and especially for Church in our country and in this community. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, the homeless and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, send us forth from this place filled with the same zeal of your first disciples to proclaim the Good News of Christ's resurrection and to share the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we ourselves have received.

Let us pray.

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



## Lesson 1 – Genesis 2:4b-7

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup>when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; <sup>6</sup>but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— <sup>7</sup>then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

**Response** – Hymn 506 (Stanzas 1 & 2) *Praise the Spirit in Creation*

**Lesson 2** – Numbers 11:16-17, 24-30

<sup>16</sup> So the Lord said to Moses, ‘Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. <sup>17</sup>I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself. ...

<sup>24</sup> So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. <sup>25</sup>Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

<sup>26</sup> Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, ‘Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.’ <sup>28</sup>And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, ‘My lord Moses, stop them!’ <sup>29</sup>But Moses said to him, ‘Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!’ <sup>30</sup>And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

**Response** — Hymn 508 (Stanzas 1 & 3) *Breathe on me, breath of God*

**Lesson 3** – 2 Samuel 23:1-7

23:<sup>1</sup>Now these are the last words of David:  
The oracle of David, son of Jesse,  
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,  
the anointed of the God of Jacob,  
the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord speaks through me,  
his word is upon my tongue.

<sup>3</sup> The God of Israel has spoken,  
the Rock of Israel has said to me:

One who rules over people justly,  
ruling in the fear of God,

<sup>4</sup> is like the light of morning,

like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,  
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

<sup>5</sup> Is not my house like this with God?

For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,  
ordered in all things and secure.

Will he not cause to prosper  
all my help and my desire?

<sup>6</sup> But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;  
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;

<sup>7</sup> to touch them one uses an iron bar  
or the shaft of a spear.

And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

### Response – Psalm 126 (Barrett)

#### PSALM 126



The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad in—deed.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of / Zion, \*  
then were / we like those who dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with / laughter, \*  
and our / tongue with shouts of joy. [ANTIPHON]

Then they said among the / nations, \*  
"The Lord has / done great things for them."  
The Lord has done great things / for us, \*  
and / we are glad indeed. [ANTIPHON]

Restore our fortunes, O / Lord, \*—  
like the watercourses / of the Negev.  
Those who / sowed with tears\*  
will / reap with songs of joy. [ANTIPHON]

Those who go out weeping, carrying the / seed\*—  
will come again with joy, / should'ring their sheaves.  
[ANTIPHON]



## Lesson 4 – Joel 2:28-32

<sup>28</sup> Then afterwards  
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.  
<sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

<sup>30</sup> I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. <sup>31</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. <sup>32</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

**Response** – Choir Anthem: *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

## Lesson 5 – John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

<sup>26</sup> ‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup>You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. ...

‘I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup>But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” <sup>6</sup>But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: <sup>9</sup>about sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

<sup>12</sup> ‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

**Response** – Hymn 512 (Stanzas 1 & 4) *Come gracious Spirit, heavenly dove*

## Lesson 6 – John 20:19-23

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

**Response** – Hymn 513

*Like the murmur of the dove’s song*

## Lesson 7 – Acts 2:1-17

<sup>2</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?’ <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> ‘In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,

and your old men shall dream dreams.  
 18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
 in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
 and they shall prophesy.  
 19 And I will show portents in the heaven above  
 and signs on the earth below,  
 blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness  
 and the moon to blood,  
 before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
 21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**Response** – Psalm 104 (Barrett)

PSALM 104: 25-26, 28-32, 35



Send forth your Spir-it, O Lord, and re-new the face of the earth.

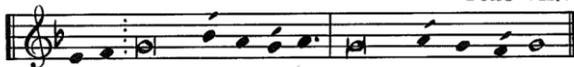
O Lord, how /manifold are your works!\*  
 in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is /full of your creatures.  
 Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too /many to number,\*  
 crea/tures both small and great. [ANTIPHON]

—All of /them look to you\*  
 to give them their /food in due season.  
 You give it to /them; they gather it;\*  
 you open your hand, and they are /filled with good things.

You hide your face, and /they are terrified;\*  
 you take away their breath, and they die and re/turn to their dust.  
 You send forth your Spirit, and /they are created;\*  
 and so you renew the /face of the earth. [ANTIPHON]

May the glory of the Lord en/dure for ever;\*  
 may the Lord re/joyce in all his works.  
 May these /words of mine please him;\*  
 I will re/joyce in the Lord. [ANTIPHON]

Tone VII.7



## Lesson 8 – 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

<sup>12</sup><sup>1</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

<sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says ‘Let Jesus be cursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

<sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

**Response** – Hymn 704

*O thou who camest from above*

## Lesson 9 – Galatians 5:16-26

<sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

**Response** – Choir Anthem – *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me*

## Final Prayer

Almighty and most merciful God, grant that by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit we may be enlightened and strengthened for your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

Response: *And also with you.*

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The service continues with the Holy Communion, beginning on Page 367.  
After the Post-Communion Prayer, the following Blessing is pronounced:

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### *Pentecost Blessing*

May Almighty God, who enlightened the minds of the disciples by pouring out upon them the Holy Spirit, make you rich with his blessing, that you may abound more and more in that Spirit for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit as a flame of fire that rested upon the heads of the disciples, burn out all evil from your hearts, and make them shine with the pure light of his presence. *Amen.*

May God, who by the Holy Spirit caused those of many tongues to proclaim Jesus as Lord, strengthen your faith and send you out to bear witness to him in word and deed.  
*Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.  
*Amen.*