

JUNE 9, 2019
PENTECOST SUNDAY



The Holy Spirit lives in us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 14:8-17, 25-27	Jesus promises the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	Filled with the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	Romans 8:14-17	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Isaiah 44:1-5	God's blessing on Israel
Thursday	Galatians 5:16-25	The fruit of the Spirit
Friday	2 Kings 2:1-15a	Elijah ascends to heaven
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	God the creator and provider
Sunday	John 16:12-15	The Spirit will guide you into truth

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

John 14:26 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, just as you are in Jesus and Jesus is in you, thank you for your Holy Spirit that places Jesus in us as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

O Lord, your work in creation is filled with awe and wonder; you open your hand and fill us with good things. Amen. (Psalm 104:24 and 28)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord pour out the Holy Spirit upon you that you may be filled with faith in Jesus Christ.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is it like to feel lost or alone?
- How did the disciples feel after Jesus ascended and was not visibly present to them?
- How does the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, fill the void of Jesus' absence?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 14:8-17, 25-27.

It can be confusing to understand the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of one's faith. Some are tempted to see the Holy Spirit as an added dimension of the Christian faith beyond faith in Jesus. However, Jesus states in John 14 that the Holy Spirit will simply make his teachings and work alive in them, even though Jesus is not visibly present to them. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus Christ the living Savior in the lives of believers and not just a historical figure to recall from the past. The Apostle Paul names the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9). It is Christ's presence that the Spirit gives, not something new and different from the saving, reconciling work of Christ. John 14 names the Spirit as "another Advocate" (v. 16, v. 26). The term advocate means someone who stands alongside someone and is a description used in 1 John 2:1 to describe Jesus Christ. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, reveals Christ to believers. The identity of the Holy Spirit in believers is the same as that of Jesus Christ. How does Christ's presence through the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, give you comfort? How does it make a difference in your life?

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, so that our lives are strengthened and our faith renewed day by day through your presence in our lives. Amen.

SERVICE

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b is about God's wisdom in creating "living things both small and great" (v. 25b). The psalmist sings praises to God, "Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!" (v. 35b). Praise of God includes caring for all of God's creation. In what ways do you care for God's creation in your home and in your neighborhood?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Pentecost means fiftieth. Pentecost Sunday is 50 days after Easter. It is when we celebrate the birthday of the church. Find a pattern for making paper flames or doves. Buy or bake a cake and decorate it with red icing. Place the flames (or use candles) and doves on the cake to symbolize the Holy Spirit. Buy birthday party plates and hats and have a party. Sing *Happy Birthday* to the church before cutting the cake. Close the party with a reading from Psalm 104:35b, "Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!"



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