

MAY 19, 2024
PENTECOST SUNDAY



The Holy Spirit comforts and guides us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Work of the Holy Spirit
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given
Tuesday	Romans 8:22-27	The Spirit intercedes
Wednesday	Galatians 5:22-26	Fruit of the Spirit
Thursday	Psalm 139:7-12	The inescapable God
Friday	Acts 4:23-31	The believers pray for boldness
Saturday	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	All living things depend on God
Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Nevertheless I [Jesus] 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.” John 16:7 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, we thank you for the work of the Holy Spirit that comforts and guides us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, you who fill us with good things, we thank you for this food that strengthens us to be your witnesses in the world. Amen. (Psalm 104:28)

A Blessing to Give:

May the comfort and power of God give you peace in Christ’s name.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Gracious Spirit, Heed
Our Pleading*



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- When have you felt you needed guidance from someone else?
- How do you experience the work of the Holy Spirit through prayer, scripture, and the community of faith as a guide for your life in Christ?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

Jesus says that because he is leaving, he knows his followers are very sad. Because of his departure and because of the disciples' sorrow, Jesus sends the Advocate, that is, the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for advocate means someone who walks alongside us and can also be translated as helper, comforter, teacher, guide, or companion. It is a word rich in meaning and a powerful term for Jesus' followers who are grieving and needing direction. When we experience loss and transitions, feel alone, and are not sure of the future or how to understand the present, the Advocate, the "Spirit of truth", speaks the same message Jesus taught his followers and is here for us. Pentecost is a time to remember that Jesus remains with us as Savior through the work of the Holy Spirit. We are lifted up and sent on our way to do the work of Jesus in the world. We are not alone; we never have been and we never will be. Our loving God does not want to leave us feeling grief. We are empowered as the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in the world.

Discuss: How does being empowered by the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, make a difference to you?

Pray: Everlasting God, we thank you for the Holy Spirit that comforts and strengthens us; help us to faithfully be your presence in the world through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can the work of the Holy Spirit help you comfort someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Pentecost has been described as the giving of the Holy Spirit. It is the beginning of the ministry of the preaching of Peter (Acts 2:14-21) and all future preachers. It is also the birth of hearing the gospel in our own language. Light a candle, preferably a red one, to celebrate Pentecost. Take a moment to look at the flame as a reminder of the "fiery tongues that settled on each person" (Acts 2:3, CEV).

Then Pray: Dear God, we thank you for the Holy Spirit that helps us in our weakness and prays for us with sighs too deep for words. Amen. (Romans 8:26)



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