

REFLECTION: I remember a time I felt the power of the Spirit in my life... I remember...
I remember...

OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: “I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Lord,
You send us your Spirit so that we may continue to find life in you even when we are behind locked doors. In situations of conflict, may we be agents of peace and harmony among others. May your renewing Spirit take away our fears and make our hearts aflame with your light and life.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

Peace be with You

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

Everyone can feel alone and in a dark place, even Jesus did at one point. I remember when I was sitting alone in my cell after being stabbed by the so-called homies. I felt betrayed. I used to listen to the homies but I realized they only wanted me to do their dirty work.

During my time there, I remember feeling vulnerable all the time. Whenever I would think about or pray to God, I would find myself trying to listen to what he tried to tell me. I remember hearing a good voice telling me to do right and to be my true self, but then there was a bad voice tempting me to keep making bad choices.

All I had now was Jesus in my life. I felt his presence with me, so I did not feel all alone. This is what gave me the strength to get up. I remember thinking at one point that I couldn’t be strong enough to endure the lengthy sentence, but the Holy Spirit gave me the strength to carry on.

- Michael, who is in a California State Prison.

**Pentecost Sunday
Cycle C | June 8, 2025**



Art by J. Salazar

PENITENTIAL RITE

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Lord,
As we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives, we ask for wisdom and understanding so that we may experience the joy and freedom of your love and light.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 2: 1-11

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 travelers 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.
R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13

Brothers and sisters: No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 104: 1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O LORD!
the earth is full of your creatures;

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are
created,

and you renew the face of the earth.

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Gospel: John 20: 19-23

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.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION: SPIRIT

(through the eyes of benjamin)

closing my eyes
fear of being
almost shaken
from my chair
something powerful
was happening
in this space

i was expecting to see
jesus in our midst
the noise of rain falling
pounding
was blocked out
there was a wild storm
like the ones we would
have on the lake
in capernaum

feeling now
this thunder
was within me
it was just at this moment
i felt fire pouring into me
feeling i could not breathe
now the thunder
was speaking
receive the holy spirit

i could hear jesus' voice
i give you my spirit

fire burning within me
what was happening
in this room?

i looked around me
the flames of fire burning
a thunderous sound
i knew this is what
we had been waiting for

we had been working hard
we were passionate
about our work
but underlying all this
was fear of being tortured
of being murdered
like jesus had been

i knew we needed
something to help us
continue his work
we seemed to be
falling apart as a group

amidst a loud
thunderous crash
a voice was saying
i give you my spirit

reflecting that
this was happening
within me
the flowing of jesus' spirit

this fire burning down
deeper and deeper within
something was happening
with this fire that
i could not move

fire was burning
deep down
with this moment
so intense

i walked over
across the room
now nathan
was looking at me

all during these weeks
i have been in
conflict with him
i felt he had been
too narrow
he has acted as if
his was the only way
to do things
sometimes his ideas
were so wrong
and he would push
so hard that
we would be forced
to follow his ideas

thunder
fire
presence
and a circle
of community

why are relationships
so difficult?
why do we find it
so hard to get along?
why are we so competitive
and let resentment
into our hearts?

i was now feeling this fire
burning away pettiness
i was making room
from my small self
for something great

the thunder was
getting louder
and the fire was
burning brighter

i looked around the circle
all being enveloped
in flames

*i give you my spirit
to build bridges
not tear them down*

inside of me
i was feeling the desire
to be closer to nathan
not to have so many walls
between us

jesus
more than anyone
knew what was going on
inside each of us
he knew how difficult
it is to get along
why did we get
into conflicts?

*i will give you my spirit
to be with you
to give you strength
not to remain
within your smallness*

i felt at that moment
my heart was
being stretched
i felt my heart
was being formed
to be like jesus' heart
i could feel how much
my heart had become
like fire burning

a joy was filling this space
jesus' spirit was
making me different
that i need not be caught
in trivial concerns

a deep desire within
was whispering
jesus
i would like my heart
to be like yours
fire deep down
deeper and deeper
within me

i was so moved
with jesus' spirit
that this power moved me
to go over to nathan
and reconcile with him

realizing how
i once wanted
to build a bridge with him

there was a profound joy
spread across
nathan's face
feeling jesus' spirit

this fire was giving us
the strength to see
what joined us together
that jesus is the center
and when this is
not the case
the bridge collapses

with this spirit
our circle was closer
than ever

my heart had
been stretched
that i could be different
towards those with whom
i had problems

i was overflowing with love
and i could tell all of us
around the circle
were feeling this

this spirit helps us
be more than we are

