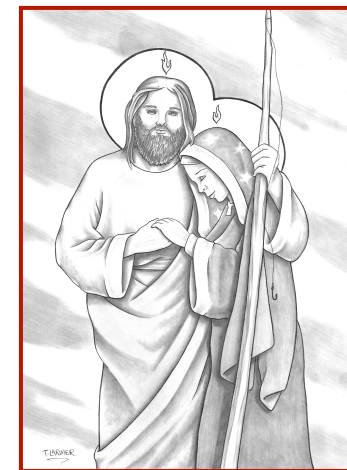


**REFLECTION:** I remember a time I was afraid to show my real emotions and feelings...

I remember... I remember...

# Peace be with You

Pentecost Sunday  
Cycle A | May 24, 2026



“Pentecost” by T. Larimer

## WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

I was born into a gang and violent family. My mom was a teen mother caring for two. My father was also in a gang. A year and a half after my birth, he left. When we moved to a different city, I started going out and stealing bikes. This eventually led to me doing drugs. My mother felt bad and tried to protect me, but I didn't care. Things got worse.

I never realized all the things my mother did for me. She did her best being a single mother. And for not realizing this, I am now locked up. It sucks that I can't just go to her house and hug her or call anytime and say, “I love you.” I hate hearing my mom cry over the phone.

After I signed the Book of Life and started to build my relationship with God, I started feeling peace in my heart for the first time in a long time. I wasn't just signing a book; it was a promise to God, my family, and myself to do better. I learned that it's never too late to change. God will love and care for you no matter what. I now realize the beautiful gift he gave me—a life with obstacles so that I may share them with you.

My mother drove from Arizona to watch me sign it. When she grabbed my hands, she started to cry. It hurt her to see me locked up, but in a way, she said, she now knows that I am safe. Before she left she hugged me and cried. She didn't want to leave her only son behind. I told her I'm sorry and that I'll be home soon.

- Jose, who is in a California State Prison.

## 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:

God our Father,  
Let your Spirit renew our days, our loves and our lives. Bring us tenderness and joy as well as openness to one another and the courage to stand up for all that is right and just.

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

## 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.**

## 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:

Holy God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,

We ask you to guide us in love to a joyful life.

Heal us from our wounds and bring us into peace, forgiveness and hope.

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



# 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: HEALING SPIRIT

(through the eyes  
of peter)

i was locked  
behind a closed door  
with fear of  
being recognized  
who could we trust?  
were these my friends  
or my enemies?

following jesus  
had put my identity  
on the line  
fear of being seen  
as different  
as a follower of jesus  
in this upper room  
waiting with  
the disciples  
not knowing  
who to trust  
fearful every time  
i go out  
putting on a mask  
not wanting  
to be recognized

remembering hector  
a young man  
i had met in prison  
at 14 years old  
he crossed the border  
never thinking  
he would join a gang  
now he is 17  
and is facing life

in a small cell  
in a cage

looking over  
his shoulder  
at his enemies  
feeling alone  
who could he trust?  
remembering  
my younger brother  
too young to go  
around with me  
too young  
to be put in danger  
he looked up to me  
now with my masks  
cowering in fear  
i am wishing  
he was here with me  
wishing  
i could hug him  
to show love  
to just one person  
to be able to trust  
just one person  
completely

together in  
the upper room  
a fear grips us  
after the crucifixion  
after denying  
my friendship  
with jesus  
saying i never  
knew him  
never followed him

it hurt so much  
to always be living  
in fear

hearing a knock  
on the door  
jesus was coming  
into the room  
i feel uplifted

why do you fear, peter?  
jesus taking my hands  
why do you let fear  
control you?  
do you remember  
the beginning?  
the hope?  
the desire to heal?  
the love you once felt?  
it is all still there  
it is still here  
among you

jesus  
it is good to have you  
with us again

jesus  
when you left  
we are overcome  
with fear  
we let darkness  
control us  
it is so easy to give in  
to negativity

but listening to jesus

i was feeling a spirit  
far greater than me  
a light that shines  
even when you think  
you are alone  
this spirit is within you

jesus breathing on me  
his breath warming  
my soul filling  
my lungs with hope  
seeing how many times  
i have fallen and  
messed up  
how fear has ruled me  
but now i was seeing  
the love of  
my younger brother

jesus' spirit was  
removing the chains  
from my hands  
and feet  
i was seeing  
a new way of living  
my life was  
being healed  
by this spirit  
no longer in darkness  
now there is light  
a love to follow

