

Peace be with You

Pentecost Sunday
Cycle A | May 24, 2026

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.



"Pentecost" by T. Larimer

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.**



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



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

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.**

