

Try to spend some time in silent reflection before starting this act of worship.

Entrance hymn: Lord, for the years

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTrFQLy6js>

The Preparation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed, alleluia.

The Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful
People by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all
things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 2.1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The Gospel: John 20.19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then 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.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

The Reflection

Deacon Douglas Macmillan

Pentecost is brilliantly described in the book of Acts as a dramatic event, with a rushing mighty wind and tongues of fire settling on the disciples' heads. But the coming of the Spirit into our lives is seldom an instantaneous dramatic event: more often, his voice speaks to us in the silence of our hearts (remember Elijah in his cave?) and we become more aware of his presence and his persistent voice as time rolls on.

The day of Pentecost is not only a time to celebrate the power of the Spirit, but to reflect that all of us who have been baptised have already received his gifts, his grace, his power, his indwelling in our souls – and so, we hope, that these gifts are reflected in our day-to-day lives.

And what are the gifts of the Spirit? S. Paul answers the question in his letter to the Galatians: 'Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness'. Pentecost is a challenge to take the word of God out from the four walls of the church and to breathe the gifts of the Spirit into the world in which we all – in our separate and necessary ways – live, move, suffer, and have our being.

Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
And lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy seven-fold gifts impart.

Praise to thine eternal merit, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen. Alleluia.

Intercessions

Through Christ, who ever lives to make intercession for us,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lift up our hearts to the heavenly places
and inspire us to serve you as a royal priesthood.
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Let all peoples acknowledge your kingdom
and grant on earth the blessing of peace.
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit
and renew your Church with power from on high.
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

May peace abound and righteousness flourish,
that we may vanquish injustice and wrong.
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Help us to proclaim the good news of salvation,
and grant us the needful gifts of your grace.
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Let us commend the world, for which Christ prays,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn: Come down, O love divine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flvKDgktutI>

Our Father

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.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Spiritual Communion

Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Then add the following prayer:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks
for all your goodness and loving kindness.
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we show forth your praise,
not only with our lips but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Hymn: Father, Lord of all Creation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyguLv5A_b4

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all and evermore. Amen.

Please keep each other in your prayers throughout the week. These days are passing and communal acts of worship will return.

Please also look at our website regularly: www.stsp.org.uk, especially the weekly music updates from our Director of Music, Richard Gowers, and our Elevenses social group.

During this difficult time when our church building is closed, we are still a church; meeting virtually for prayer services, study and fellowship.

The work of our church is reliant on people's generosity, and with the closure of our building we cannot receive all the gifts that we usually would, so we really need your help now.

To make a donation please click on the virtual giving plate text below.

[Virtual Giving Plate](#)