

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.”

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Acts 2.1-21

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Christians celebrate on this day the feast of Pentecost, in which the Spirit of God is manifested to the Church. From resurrection Sunday we began to celebrate, for fifty days, the presence of the living Christ among us and we use as inspiration in our liturgies those texts that tell us about his encounter with his disciples.

For this reason, Pentecost is not in isolation the feast of the Holy Spirit, but the liturgical closing of the time of resurrection, because in the same way that the Spirit of life raised Jesus from the dead, now he raises and vivifies the Church for may it continue the ministry of Christ in our world. Resurrection-Ascension-Pentecost form a unit in the mystery of our redemption.

The Greek word Pentecost means fifty and refers to the Old Testament to the Feast of the Harvests or "the first fruits". He celebrated the memory of the alliance that God made with his people (fifty days after the departure from Egypt) by giving them a law on Mount Sinai.

At this feast the people thanked God for his presence and renewed the joy of being summoned and consecrated by God to transform the world. According to the prophets, in the New Covenant God writes his law no longer on stone tablets, but in the hearts of believers, so that God removes the heart of stone and places one of flesh in our chest.

This prophetic dimension is also that of the Holy Spirit present at Pentecost, who transforms our hearts and makes us feel united to God in a definitive and renewed way.

According to the Acts of the Apostles, it was on the feast of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples of Jesus. In the Gospel of John this relationship between the resurrection of Jesus and the descent of the Spirit is very direct and intense, since the risen man appears in the midst of the disciples, says "Peace to you" and blows on them, thus receiving the Spirit vivifier.

Let's meditate on four effects of the transforming power of the Spirit and let's do it as a prayer of the faithful. Let us ask God on this day to renew our hearts, our minds, our actions, families, vital places, communities and Churches, cities, countries and the world.

Let us all pray: "Come Spirit of God, transform us and fill us with your love."

1. Luke narrates in Acts that the Apostles were gathered in a house: the renewing experience of the Spirit occurs in the space occupied by the family, the joy and difficulties of everyday life, of the daily relations between parents, children, grandparents, relatives. In Christ all things are made new. It is interesting to note that the manifestation of the Holy Spirit does not take place within the walls of the Jerusalem temple where the divine manifestation could be expected and assumed, but rather occurs within the simplicity and sacredness of the home.

Let us pray: "Come Spirit of God to our homes, consecrate them and fill them with your love!"

2. The situation in which the arrival of the Spirit occurs is one of turbulence and confusion, there are events that cannot be humanly explained, as if they were apocalyptic scenes that Lucas describes as noise, gusts of wind, fire, tongues. The mood of the disciples is equally confused and negative: they were there with the doors closed, frustrated by the death of Jesus and afraid of the Jews. But the arrival of the Spirit brought them peace, forgiveness and reconciliation. We, too, have experienced paralyzing situations of disappointment and fear in the face of change, in which we close our own doors and windows, cut off communication, and do not want to see or hear.

Let us pray: "Come Spirit of God, transform with power our struggles, weaknesses and fears into joy and victory!"

3. At Pentecost there were the twelve Apostles, who were Jews and therefore celebrated the Harvest Festival. But there were Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Phrygians,

Egyptians, and Arabs; people from different countries, cultures, languages, worldviews and creeds - it was quite a multicultural group. But with the arrival of the Holy Spirit, the meeting goes from being an ethnocentric party celebrated only by Jews, to being a universal party of equality, unity and renewal. The Spirit made people communicate in the most diverse languages, connect overcoming cultural barriers. Let us celebrate without prejudice and with inclusion not only Pentecost, but all our liturgies, because there absolutely everyone was filled with the Spirit of God: his coming was an act for the whole Church, in which no discrimination was manifested.

Let us pray: "Come Spirit of God, give us your gifts of unity, inclusion, understanding and reconciliation!". (Pause)

4. The book of Genesis tells us that the breath of the Spirit moved over the face of the waters, from the beginning of time the Spirit was there to create, fecundate, renew and consecrate all creation. Creation is God's gift given to human beings as a house for his care, but we are making it sterile and killing its creatures.

Pentecost in an act of reconciliation in favor of a new creation, which also impacts our relationship with the earth, the forests, the waters, the species. It is a call to talk about the issues of caring for our common home, to ask to be transformed in our way of thinking and acting environmentally, and to commit ourselves to upholding the integrity of creation.

To that breath of the living God we ask: "Come Spirit of God today into our souls, infuse us with your gift of care for creation!". (Pause)

The Spirit manifested itself with signs, gifts and miracles of renewal at Pentecost. We need the gift of the word and communication to unblock our relationships, to break down walls of isolation. Let us also think of all the gifts that we need as a Church today: gifts of health, liberation from oppression, mercy, service and solidarity with the most vulnerable, consolation for those who suffer, proclamation and witness to the Word of Life, goodness and justice. of creation care.

Let us seek to live this feast as the fulfillment and presence of the living God during his creation and of the Church that dares to follow Jesus Christ. The Spirit helps us to live as Christ lived, to have a prophetic and evangelical attitude in the face of present difficulties, to fight for the renewal of creation, for reconciliation between God and human beings, for unity in diversity, for peace and the right to abundant life that Jesus offers, because the Spirit renews and gives life.

Let us pray: "God of all goodness, pour out on us this day your Holy Spirit, just as you poured it out on your disciples on the day of Pentecost, so that our hearts may be renewed with your love and our actions may be witnesses of your presence among us. . Amen".