



### ***Light a candle***

Bring yourself into the presence of God.

Let His Spirit bring you peace.

Sit in stillness and breathe deeply.

Listen to your own breath coming into and leaving your body.

Breathe in life; breathe out hope.

Listen to Holy Spirit Take Our Hand by Angela Bendotti  
<https://youtu.be/81c1HMKRwz8?si=3QOnFEY6xGiiDLHK>

### ***Prayer***

Come, Spirit of God!

Come with your power to transform us.

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit that my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love only what is holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.

Come, fire of love!

Come with your wisdom to enlighten us.

## **Scripture Acts 2: 1-21**

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, and each one was bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language.

They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely,' they said, 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language?

Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; residents of Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs, we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Everyone was amazed and perplexed; they asked one another what it all meant.

Some, however, laughed it off. 'They have been drinking too much new wine,' they said.

Then Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed them in a loud voice: 'Men of Judaea, and all you who live in Jerusalem, make no mistake about this, but listen carefully to what I say.



## **Breaking Open the Word**

Placed in post-Ascension Jerusalem, this reading shows:

- **God empowering a fragile community** - The disciples are few in number, socially marginal, and still marked by fear after Jesus' death and Ascension. Pentecost reveals that their mission does not depend on status or strength, but on God's Spirit acting through them. What was weak and hesitant is transformed into courageous and public witness.
- **Peter's Role** - Peter standing "with the Eleven" signals restoration after heartbreaking denial. Apostolic leadership emerges and Peter, transformed by the Holy Spirit, speaks with authority and command. The Church speaks with one voice, not individual enthusiasm – Jerusalem, the city that heard Peter deny Jesus, now hears him proclaim God's mighty works.
- **The Church born in the heart of Jewish worship** - Pentecost takes place during a major Jewish feast in Jerusalem, centred on the Temple and the memory of God's covenant with Israel. The outpouring of the Spirit does not reject this tradition but fulfils it, showing continuity between

Israel's story and the emerging Church. The Church is born within prayer, Scripture, and worship, not apart from them.

• **The Gospel addressed to all nations from the very beginning** - The miracle of many languages shows that the Gospel is meant for every people and culture. Each listener hears the message in their own language, affirming dignity, belonging, and inclusion rather than uniformity. From its first public moment, the Church is outward-looking and universal.

• **Jerusalem transformed from a place of fear and death into a place of Spirit and life** - Jerusalem, once associated with betrayal, crucifixion, and fear, becomes the place of new life and hope. The Spirit turns the site of suffering into the starting point of mission. What was a place of endings, becomes the place of God's new beginning.

### **Reflection**

How do I respond to what I have seen, heard and felt in this reading?

The Holy Spirit called the apostles to the action of spreading the Good News to the whole world. In what ways is the Holy Spirit calling me to action?

How does this align with "Never see a need without doing something about it?"

What are some ways that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are useful in my daily life?

Why is love for others so crucial when using spiritual gifts?

In what ways does the Holy Spirit help Jesus' followers?

In what ways does the Holy Spirit help me?

### **Response**

Spirit of God you wait patiently for your people to hear and respond to your urgings:

*May we recognise you in the events of this day and attend to your inspirations.*

Spirit of God you inspired Mary and Joseph:

*Pour out your grace upon our families that they may be strengthened to witness to your love.*

Spirit of God you are the source of wisdom:

*Enable us to hear your voice as you guide and challenge us in the choices we must make.*

Spirit of God you are the breath that hovers over the waters bringing forth life:

*Breathe in us now, that your words of mercy may be spoken anew to those with whom we live and work.*

Spirit of God you come with the gifts of counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, understanding, wisdom and fear of the Lord:

*May we use our spiritual, intellectual, and material gifts in ways inspired by and pleasing to you, so that with Jesus, we may be a source of blessing to others.*

### **Prayer**

(*Intercessions of Mercy*, Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, 2009)

Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us,  
Give our tongues the words to praise you,  
our hearts the desire to love you.

Sanctify the work of our lives that all our acts may give glory to God.

Abide with us that we may abide with you.

This we ask in grateful faith.

Amen.

### **Blessing**

(*Act, Love, Walk*, Trustees of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, 2014)

May the abundant Spirit of generous radiance  
flow through, over, beneath and above  
our world and in our hearts.

Amen.

May the dancing Spirit's infectious love  
swirl us into joy and freedom.

Amen.

May the gentle spirit of warm hospitality  
spread welcome and healing  
in every corner of our being.

Amen.

