

The Coming of the Holy Spirit



Year 6 - Unit J: Pentecost

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten our minds to perceive the mysteries of the universe in relation to eternity. Spirit of right judgment and courage, guide us and make us firm in our baptismal decision to follow Jesus' way of love. Spirit of knowledge and reverence, help us to see the lasting value of justice and mercy in our everyday dealings with one another. May we respect life as we work to solve problems of family and nation, economy and ecology. Spirit of God, spark our faith, hope and love into new action each day. Fill our lives with wonder and awe in your presence which penetrates all creation.

Amen

Readings

Acts 2:1-4 English Standard Version (ESV)

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2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested^[a] on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Luke 3:16 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John 14:26 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Discuss

The Holy Spirit, the Helper, is the gift that Jesus promised; the coming of the Holy Spirit transformed Jesus' disciples and was the beginning of the Church.

Why are breath, wind and fire important symbols of the Holy Spirit?

What might we learn about the Holy Spirit from these descriptions?

Your task

Genesis 2: 5-7 (OT)

When the Lord God made the universe, there were no plants on the earth and no seed had sprouted, because he had not sent any rain, and there was no one to cultivate the land; but water would come up from beneath the surface and water the ground. Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live.

John 20: 21-23

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors... Then Jesus came and stood among them.

“Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

- What do you notice from the two scriptures?

From these scriptures, I notice that...

- Why are breath, wind and fire important symbols of the Holy Spirit?

The symbols of breath, wind and fire are significant because...

Breath, wind and fire are important symbols of the Holy Spirit as they...

- What might we learn about the Holy Spirit from the scriptures?

From these scriptures, we can learn that...

From these scriptures, I have understood that...

- In John's Gospel, what do you think the 'locked doors' represent?

In John's Gospel, the 'locked doors' represent...

I believe that the 'locked doors' in John's Gospel are a depiction of...

- Why is it so important that as disciples, we are able to forgive sins?

As disciples...