



Welcome to St Mary le Strand
Churches Together in Westminster United Service
Pentecost 2021

***Renewed and Sent Out
in the Power of the Holy Spirit***

¶ *The Gathering*

We listen to the Taizé chant: Veni, sancte Spiritus (Come, Holy Spirit)

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The Greeting

The president greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Introduction

The president introduces the service

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and we have walked with him through his journey of love. We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross. We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death. We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread. We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord. And now, with the followers of his own time, we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people, through whom we make Christ known to the world.

Responsory

- As we wait in silence,
All fill us with your Spirit.
- As we listen to your word,
All fill us with your Spirit.
- As we worship you in majesty,
All fill us with your Spirit.
- As we long for your refreshing,
All fill us with your Spirit.
- As we long for your renewing,
All fill us with your Spirit.
- As we long for your equipping,
All fill us with your Spirit.
- As we long for your empowering,
All fill us with your Spirit.

Silence is kept.

The Pentecost Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2.1-13. NRSV)

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.'

The reader says

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Prayer for Personal Renewal

The president says

Be with us, Spirit of God;

All **nothing can separate us from your love.**

Breathe on us, breath of God;

All **fill us with your saving power.**

Speak in us, wisdom of God;

All **bring strength, wholeness, and peace.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God and eternal Father.

Daily your Spirit renews the face of the earth,

bringing strength out of weakness,

hope out of despair and life out of death.

By the power of your Spirit,

may your blessing rest upon all your people gathered in your presence.

Renew in us the knowledge of

your love and grace,

your acceptance and adoption,

your equipping and empowering.

Form in us the likeness of Christ,

that we may be witnesses of your astonishing love,

and fill us afresh with life in all its fullness.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

As we reflect on the renewing of the Holy Spirit we listen to this hymn:

Come down, O love divine,

seek thou this soul of mine,

and visit it

with thine own ardour glowing;

O comforter, draw near,

within my heart appear,

and kindle it,

thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes
in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round,
the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness
become mine inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass
the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit
makes his dwelling.

Discindi, amor santo
Bianca da Siena (d.1434)
translated by Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)

¶ *The Word*

Reading: *Romans 8.22-27 (NRSV)*

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who

hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Canticle

All The Spirit of God fills the whole world. Alleluia.

- 1 I will take you from the nations, ♦
and gather you from all the countries.
- 2 I will sprinkle clean water upon you, ♦
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.
- 3 A new heart I will give you, ♦
and put a new spirit within you,
- 4 And I will remove from your body the heart of stone ♦
and give you a heart of flesh.
- 5 You shall be my people, ♦
and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36.24-26,28b

All The Spirit of God fills the whole world. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: *John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15 (NRSV)*

This acclamation heralds the Gospel reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

All Alleluia.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

‘I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Short Meditation

Silence

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

Generous God,
we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness
where there is division, sickness and sorrow.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit,
given us by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed,
in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

Generous God,

you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan,
and upon the disciples in the upper room:

in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,

All hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

The Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,

ignite in us your holy fire;

strengthen your children with the gift of faith,

revive your Church with the breath of love,

and renew the face of the earth,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All Our Father, who art in heaven ...

¶ *The Dismissal*

Blessing of Light

The ministers go to the Easter Candle.

A minister says

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.
Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.
With the new wine of the Spirit
they proclaim your reign of love.
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation
the way of light is made known.
Source of freedom, giver of life,
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Each member of the congregation has a candle which is lit.

We listen to this hymn as the candles are lit.

Hymn: One is the Body

One is the body and one is the Head,
one is the Spirit by whom we are led;
one God and Father,
one faith and one call for all.

Christ who ascended to heaven above
is the same Jesus whose nature is love,
who once descended
to bring to this earth new birth.

Gifts have been given well suited to each;
some to be prophets, to pastor or preach,
some, through the Gospel,
to challenge, convert and teach.

Called to his service are women and men
so that his body might ever again
witness through worship,
through deed and through word
to Christ our Lord.

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Commission

When all the candles are lit the president says

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

As part of God's Church here in Westminster, I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

All **By the Spirit's power, we will.**

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

All **We will.**

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

All **We will.**

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

All **We will.**

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

All **We will.**

Conclusion

The president says

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Today we have remembered the coming of God's power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

The president blesses the people, saying

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the life he gives.

All Amen.

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

All Amen.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

All Amen.

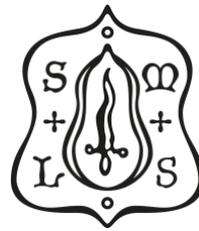
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

A minister says

Filled with the Spirit's power,
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



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