

witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

### GOSPEL

Jn 14:15-16, 23-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever.

‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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# Reflections on the Gospel

## THE CHURCH EMPOWERED WITH THE SPIRIT

Luke is the evangelist who has most memorably depicted the bestowing of the Spirit upon the Church, locating the experience on the Jewish feast of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-11). As its name in Greek indicates, this feast took place fifty days (seven weeks) after Passover. It involved a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where Israel gathered to give thanks for the completion of the grain harvest and to celebrate the gift of the land.

The theme of gathering appears in the lists of visitors to Jerusalem from so many regions who hear the testimony of the Spirit-filled apostles each in their own language. The primary reference is to pilgrims from the Jewish diaspora, but we can find here also a foretaste of the universal mission of the Church. The renewed People of God is now being empowered and equipped for its mission to be a ‘light for revelation to the nations’ (Luke 2:32). Overcoming the disunity of humankind symbolised by the tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9), the Church will speak in many languages. Through each it will convey the same essential message: the outreach of God’s compassionate love for the world (‘the marvels of God’).

In the Gospel, taken from St John, the risen Lord imparts the Spirit, along with the gift of peace, to the disciples on Easter Sunday evening. He has died as the ‘Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world’ (1:29, 36; 19:36). Now it is their task to take to the world the reconciliation he has won from the Father.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**

# THE SAVING WORD

PENTECOST SUNDAY / C

09 JUNE 2019

### FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.*

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues 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 foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one 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; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.’

■ **The word of the Lord.**

### RESP PSALM

Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34. R. v. 30

**R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (or Alleluia!)**

1. Bless the Lord, my soul! / Lord God, how great you are! / How many are your works, O Lord! / The earth is full of your riches. **R.**

2. You take back your spirit, they die, / returning to the dust from which they came. / You send forth your spirit, they are created; / and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**



3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever! / May the Lord rejoice in his works! / May my thoughts be pleasing to him. / I find my joy in the Lord. **R.**

### SECOND READING

Rom 8:8-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, ‘Abba, Father!’ The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united