**Morning Prayer – 23rd May –Pentecost**

**Preparation**

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

**according to your judgement give us life.**

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of our sin,

your light breaks forth like the dawn

and your healing springs up for deliverance.

As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,

sustain us with your bountiful Spirit

And open our lips to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness

according to the abundance of your compassion

blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness

and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults

and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight.

So that you are justified in your sentence

and righteous in your judgement.

Cast me not away from your presence

and take not your holy spirit from me.

Give me again the joy of your salvation

and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked

and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from my guilt, O God,

the God of my salvation,

and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,

so may the light of your presence, O God,

set our hearts on fire with love for you;

now and for ever.

**Amen**

**The Word of God**

**Psalm 104.22-36,37b**

22 You make darkness that it may be night, \* in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth. 23 The lions roar for their prey \* and seek their food from God. 24 The sun rises and they are gone \* to lay themselves down in their dens. 25 People go forth to their work \* and to their labour until the evening. 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! \* In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide, \* and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great. 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan \* which you have made to play in the deep. 29 All of these look to you \* to give them their food in due season. 30 When you give it them, they gather it; \* you open your hand and they are filled with good. 31 When you hide your face they are troubled; \* when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust. 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, \* and you renew the face of the earth. 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; \* may the Lord rejoice in his works; 34 He looks on the earth and it trembles; \* he touches the mountains and they smoke. 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; \* I will make music to my God while I have my being. 36 So shall my song please him\* while I rejoice in the Lord. 37 Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture

**Acts 2.1-21**

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 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. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. 5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ 13 But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’ 14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 17 “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out

my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. 18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. 21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”’

Canticle

**Full of compassion and mercy and love**

**is God, the Most High, the Almighty.**

Lord almighty and God of our ancestors,

you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

all things tremble with awe at your presence,

before your great and mighty power.

Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy,

for you are God, Most High.

You are full of compassion, long suffering and very merciful,

and you relent at human suffering.

O God, according to your great goodness,

you have promised forgiveness for repentance

to those who have sinned against you.

The sins I have committed against you

are more in number than the sands of the sea.

I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven,

because of the multitude of my iniquities.

And now I bend the knee of my heart before you,

imploring your kindness upon me.

I have sinned, O God, I have sinned,

and I acknowledge my transgressions.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me,

according to your great mercy.

For all the host of heaven sings your praise,

and your glory is for ever and ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Full of compassion and mercy and love**

**is god, the Most High, the Almighty.**

Scripture

**Romans 8.22-27**

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; 23 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. 24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. 26 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. 27 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.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

**O my God, in you I trust.**

You are the God of my salvation,

**To you, O Lord, I life up my soul.**

In you I hope all the day long.

**O my God, in you I trust.**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,

For they are from everlasting.

**To you, O Lord, I life up my soul;**

**O my God, in you I trust.**

Gospel Canticle

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15.26-27; 16.4-15

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus spoke to his disciples: 26 ‘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. 27 You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning

. 4 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. 5 But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. 7 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. 8 And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: 9 about sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; 11 about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. 12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 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. 14 He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**John 15:26-27 & 16:4b-15 plus Acts 2:1-21**

**Pentecost 23/5/21 covid 19**

I don’t know if any of you can remember what you were like when you had to wait for something as a child, or perhaps when your own children were having to wait for something. I know that when my 3 boys were small we had to think quite carefully about what we told them when they had to wait for something. Obviously Christmas was a bit different, especially when they started school and it often felt like the run up Christmas went on for weeks. Normally my boys would just get over excited when they were waiting for something, it wasn’t just a case of ‘are we nearly there yet?’ but how many sleeps mum until we go on holiday? Can I pack all my toys away now? What will we be able to do when we get there? It was a joy to see in many ways but could also be quite tireing. I sometimes think though that it would be quite nice to have that eager anticipation though as an adult, because even when something exciting is about to happen, I still tend to get bogged down by all of the things that have to happen before the exciting event.

Our Gospel reading paints a picture of Jesus telling his disciples that they need to wait for the Holy Spirit to come. You get the sense that he wants them to be excited by it and yet there are still overtones of sadness in what he is saying because it means that Jesus will leave them.

Our reading from Acts is the fulfilment of what Jesus was preparing them for. I wonder what they are feeling? My suspicion is that they were perhaps just caught up in the moment of all that was going on. But I wonder if afterwards they thought about what Jesus had said to them and wondered why they hadn’t been more excited. Because what happened, Jesus’ sending of the Holy Spirit was such an exciting event. I don’t know if you have thought about this before but Pentecost was the birth day of the Church. So, let’s imaging the scene, a small, probably downbeat group of disciples, probably still in hiding are gathered together in one place when suddenly there is a sound like a rush of violent wind which fills the house and flames of fire descend upon them. It is clear from the passage in Acts that this drew in a large group of people as witnesses from all over the world and they each heard them speak in their own language. I really find that to be quite mind- blowing.

I come from a church background where people used the gift of tongues and spoke in other languages and each time I heard it, it would send a tingle down my spine. There was just something other wordly about it, so I can’t even begin to imagine what it would have been like to have heard a group of people speaking in other languages. What I think I find even more mind blowing though is what that meant. Up until this point in time the gospel had only been shared with the Jewish people. Now people from all over the region heard the gospel in their own language, and because of that were able to take it back with them to their own countries. That is how the Church, as we know it today was born, it didn’t exist before the day on which the Holy Spirit came, at Pentecost and that is what blows my mind.

Pentecost, like Passover was a Jewish festival. Pentecost was the fiftieth day after Passover and it was an agricultural festival. It was the day when farmers brought the first sheaf of wheat from the crop and offered it to God partly in thanks for the crop and partly as a prayer that the rest of the harvest would be safely gathered in. The origin of Pentecost goes even further back than that though. As we know the Passover festival commemorates the time when the angel of death passed over the houses of the Israelites, where the doorpost had been marked with the blood of the lamb who had been sacrificed, and the festival reminds the Jewish people of how God rescued his people out of slavery and into the promised land. Fifty days after the Passover God gave to Moses the law and therefore Pentecost is actually about, God who had rescued his people giving to them the way of life by which they must now carry out his purposes.

I just want you to stop and think about that for a moment. The festival of Pentecost was about God who had rescued his people, giving to them the way of life by which they must now carry out his purposes. Although we often refer to the day of Pentecost and mean by that the event described in Acts 2, the reality is that the festival of Pentecost had been around for many years. What God does now though is to re-purpose it. God who has rescued his people, through the death and resurrection of his son Jesus Christ now gives to them the way of life, the Holy Spirit, by which they must now carry out his purposes.

The spirit doesn’t come just for the benefit of the disciples or for the benefit of those who heard them speak in strange tongues, the spirit comes to transform the earth with the power of heaven. But the Spirit also comes to transform the lives of all those who call upon him. When the Spirit came on the disciples, he broke down barriers, all those who heard them were unable to understand in their own language, he transformed lives, about 3000 people we are told were baptised that day, he empowered a dynamic new movement, the founding of the Christian church and he enabled the disciples and others to be sent as Jesus commissioned them to the ends of the world.

Elsewhere in the Bible we have examples of the Holy Spirit moving quietly as a soft and gentle breeze, we cannot tell how the Holy Spirit will act in our lives, like a mighty rushing wind or like a gentle breeze, what we can know is that if we ask the Holy Spirit into our lives he will come in, just as, in our Gospel reading Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit will come into the lives of the disciples, the Spirit of truth, who will testify, just as the disciples will testify, to all that Jesus has done and to who He is. The Spirit will come to empower us with the power of Heaven to go out into the world to share the good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection and the promise of the kingdom, and to live our lives according to the purpose that God has for each one of us. Amen.

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,**

**for they shall be satisfied.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,

who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old

to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all that hate us.

To show mercy to our ancestors,

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for your will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation

by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on hight shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,**

**for they shall be satisfied.**

**Prayers**

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer**

Blessed are you, Lord our God.

To you be praise and glory for ever.

Your Spirit moved over the face of the deep at the beginning

to bring order out of chaos and light and life into the world.

Pour your Spirit into our hearts

and kindle in us the fire of your love,

That we may reveal your power in our lives

and walk in the joy of your presence.

Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our lives

which without you would be dull and cold.

Fill our Church which without you would be an empty shrine.

We ask you to guide and strengthen all who preach the word,

all who teach the faith.

We pray for all who are preparing

for Confirmation or for Ordination,

for all who are seeking to grow in the faith

and in a relationship with you.

Silence

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts:

**renew and refresh your creation.**

We give thanks for all who are inspired and guided by you.

We ask your blessing upon all artists, musicians,

writers and craftspeople.

We pray for all who influence the minds of others

through broadcasting or through their example of living.

We remember today

all who live in deprived or depressing surround.

Silence

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts:

**renew and refresh your creation.**

We give thanks for the coming of the Spirit

and the filling of an earthly home.

We ask your blessing upon our homes and our relationships.

We pray that our friendships enrich each other

and help us to be more aware of you.

We pray for all who are taken into care

and all who lack the love of a stable home.

Silence

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts:

**renew and refresh your creation.**

We remember all exhausted peoples,

the world-weary, the depressed and the discouraged.

We pray for all who despair

and all who feel they can no longer cope with life.

We ask your blessing upon friends and loved ones who are ill

and upon all who have been involved in accidents this week.

Silence

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts:

**renew and refresh your creation.**

We give thanks for the gift of the Spirit

and the promised of eternal life.

We remember all who have served you faithfully

and are now at rest in your kingdom.

We pray for loved ones and friends

who are departed from us,

that they may rejoice in life eternal.

Silence

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

The Collect for the Day

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort, through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Lord’s Prayer is said

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses, as we

forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and

the glory, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**The Conclusion**

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**