

MAY 20, 2018
PENTECOST SUNDAY



The Spirit intercedes for us through prayer.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given
Monday	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Work of the Spirit
Tuesday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	The valley of dry bones
Wednesday	Romans 8:22-27	The Spirit intercedes
Thursday	Ezekiel 36:22-28	God's Spirit is put within you
Friday	Joel 2:21-29	God's Spirit poured out
Saturday	Psalms 104:24-34	All living things depend on God
Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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. **Romans 8:26 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for your Holy Spirit that prays for us with sighs too deep for words. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Faithful God, you give us food when we need it. You open your hands and satisfy us with good things. Praise the Lord! Amen. (Psalm 104:27-28)

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who helps you in your weakness guide your prayers and your life in Christ's name. (Romans 8:26)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lord, Listen to Your
Children Praying*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time you experienced a disappointment, something that didn't go the way you wanted.
- It is often said that we learn not from our successes but from our failures. What have you learned from something that did not go well for you?
- The Holy Spirit in Romans 8 does not take us away from creation and its pains but connects our lives closely to it. What does it mean to you that our faith is alive with hope for the future yet does not separate us from the pains of life today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 2:1-21.

The miracle of the story of Pentecost is not only that the disciples spoke in various languages but that all the people heard the disciples speak in their own language. It is a miracle of speaking and hearing. Pentecost has been described as the giving of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. It is the birth of the ministry of the preaching of Peter and all future preachers. It is also the birth of hearing the gospel in our own language. Reflect on a sermon that has been important to you over the years. A good sermon can be missed by one who is not listening in the Spirit. Pray this week for the Holy Spirit to intercede in your life that you may be given ears to hear God's word in faith, hope, and love (Acts 28:26-29).

Pray: Dear God, we thank you for your Holy Spirit that prays for us with sighs too deep for words. Amen.

SERVICE

Romans 8:22-27 acknowledges that we and all creation experience pain and suffering. Reach out to someone who is experiencing a particular difficulty, a personal illness, or feeling the disappointments and sorrows of life. Pray for the Spirit to intercede for you in a way that will intercede in the other person's life with hope.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Pentecost is a time to recall how our lives of faith and the entire body of Christ throughout the ages are dependent upon the Holy Spirit for life and faith. It is a humbling thought that we do not know how to pray as we ought. God's Spirit is needed to intercede for us by connecting our own groans with "sighs too deep for words" (the groaning of the Spirit on our behalf). Cut sheets of red paper (the color that represents the Holy Spirit in the church) into the shape of flames. Write down prayer ideas that may be words of praise and thanksgiving to God or words seeking help for others or oneself. Offer prayers using the words you have jotted down knowing that God is interceding through prayer on your behalf.



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