

MAY 23, 2021  
PENTECOST SUNDAY



*The Spirit of God sustains all of life.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15</b>	<b>Work of the Holy Spirit</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 2:1-21</b>	<b>The Holy Spirit is given</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 8:22-27</b>	<b>The Spirit intercedes</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 37:1-14</b>	<b>The valley of dry bones</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Joel 2:21-27</b>	<b>The Lord will bless the land</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Ephesians 4:7-13</b>	<b>Equipping the saints</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 104:24-34, 35b</b>	<b>All living things depend on God</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 3:1-17</b>	<b>Born of the Spirit</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works. Psalm 104:30-31 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Come Holy Spirit, lead us to be the body of Christ in the world and guide us into the truth that Jesus brings for the salvation of the world. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Creator God, we thank you for this food as you give all living things their food in due season, you open your hand and fill us with good things. (Psalm 104:27-28)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May you be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to live in faith, hope, and love.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*I'm Goin' A Sing When the Spirit Says Sing*

### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something in creation that gives you joy?
- What is something that concerns you about the frailty of creation?
- In Psalm 104:31, God rejoices in the work of creation. How does that motivate you to care for what God has created?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Psalm 104:24-34, 35b.

Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit that enlivens the church to continue what the disciples learned and received through Jesus. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus Christ alive and real today as Savior, not just as a historical figure to recall from the past. Jesus' forgiving and renewing work is extended to the church of all times through the Spirit. What is worth remembering is that the Spirit is celebrated in Psalm 104 as the source of life for all of creation. Without God's Spirit there is no breath and creatures "die and return to their dust" (v. 29). We live in an age when the earth is being harmed by pollution of many kinds that endangers future generations, human and nonhuman alike. It is important to see the link between God's work of creating life through the Spirit and redeeming all life through Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God for life created, life redeemed, and life sustained through this one God in three persons. How does Pentecost lead you to care for and celebrate all that God has made?

*Pray:* **Dear God, you who love all that you create, give us that love through your Holy Spirit to care for the earth and tell others of the good news of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Pentecost reminds us that the world is full of many languages and different cultures. Jesus' promise to the disciples was fulfilled on this day. It enabled them to speak in other languages and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. How can you spread the good news to those who speak other languages and are from different cultures?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships— often in our own homes. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is our helper in prayer (Romans 8:26-27). Prayer is one way to practice the Christian faith in our homes. The Spirit brings our needs and concerns before God, even when we do not know what or how to pray. Light a candle when you pray this week. Look upon the flame as a symbol of the Holy Spirit that lives in you.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)