

The Book of Common Prayer

Sunday, 31st May 2020

Whit Sunday -Seventh Sunday after Easter

Dearly beloved brethren,
the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge
and confess our manifold sins and wickedness;
and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before
the face of almighty God our heavenly Father;
but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and
obedient heart;
to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same
by his infinite goodness and mercy.
And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge
our sins before God;
yet ought we most chiefly so to do,
when we assemble and meet together
to render thanks for the great benefits that we have
received at his hands,
to set forth his most worthy praise,
to hear his most holy word,
and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary,
as well for the body as the soul.]

Wherefore I pray and beseech you,
as many as are here present,
to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice,
unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying [after me]:

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires
of our own hearts.
We have offended against thy holy laws.
We have left undone those things
which we ought to have done;
and we have done those things
which we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.
Restore thou them that are penitent;
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesu our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy name.
Amen.**

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord,
to thy faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,

and serve thee with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.**

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord :
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :
and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God :
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth :
and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it :
and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship, and fall down :
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God :
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts :

as in the provocation,
and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;

When your fathers tempted me :
proved me, and saw my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said :
It is a people that do err in their hearts,
for they have not known my ways.

Unto whom I swear in my wrath :
that they should not enter into my rest.]

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Psalm 104: 26-35

²⁶ There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.

²⁷ These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.

²⁸ That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good.

²⁹ Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

³⁰ Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

³¹ The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works.

³² He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke.

³³ I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

³⁴ My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord.

³⁵ Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more.

Bless thou the Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord.

At the end of each psalm these words are said

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

*² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind,
and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of 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 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:¹⁹ And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:

21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Te Deum Laudamus

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein.
To thee cherubin and seraphin continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee:
the Father of an infinite majesty;
thine honourable, true and only Son;

also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee;
and we worship thy name, ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

Gospel Reading John 20:19-23

*Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week,
when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews,
came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side.

Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

*²³ Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them;
and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

The Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel :
for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;

And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us :
in the house of his servant David;

As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets :
which have been since the world began;

That we should be saved from our enemies :

and from the hands of all that hate us;

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers :
and to remember his holy covenant;

To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham :
that he would give us,

That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies :
might serve him without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before him :
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest :
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people :
for the remission of their sins;

Through the tender mercy of our God :
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness,
and in the shadow of death :
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects are said.

The Collect of the Day

O almighty God, who alone canst order unruly wills and affections of your sinful people;
Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest,
and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold
changes of the world, our hearts may surely fixed, where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

The Collect in time of Pestilence, Sickness & Mortality

O ALMIGHTY God, the Lord of life and death, of health and sickness:
Have pity upon us miserable sinners, now visited with great sickness and mortality.
Withdraw from us this grievous affliction.

Sanctify to us, we beseech thee, this thy fatherly correction.
Enlarge our charity to relieve those who need our help.
Bless the remedies applied to assist them. Give us prudence to see, and vigour to use,
those means which thy providence affords, for preventing and alleviating such calamities.
And, above all, teach us to know how frail and uncertain our condition is, and so to number our days,
that we may seriously apply our hearts to that holy and heavenly wisdom, whilst we live here,
which may in the end bring us to life everlasting;
through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thine only Son our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect for Peace

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord,
in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life,
whose service is perfect freedom;
defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence,
may not fear the power of any adversaries;
through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father,
almighty and everlasting God,
who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day;
defend us in the same with thy mighty power;
and grant that this day we fall into no sin,
neither run into any kind of danger,
but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance,
to do always that is righteous in thy sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A sermon

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

This ancient prayer – Veni Creator Spiritus- Come Holy Spirit – set us a flame with love for you Lord Jesus

In Luke's Gospel Chapter 12 - verse 49 Jesus says,

"I came to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already kindled! ..."

How I wish it were already kindled... Jesus not only started the fire, he needed to kindle it and fuel it,
he lived it and he set it ablaze. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit ignited a roaring inferno to forever burn.
But, in order for it to continue burning it needs fuel and energy.

Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For Christians, it is a memorial of the day
the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days
after the Resurrection of Jesus. The Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus –
culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father (at the request of His Son), on Jesus' disciples.
The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church by the preaching of St. Peter,

which resulted in the conversion of 3000 people to the teachings of Jesus.
You could say, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church - Jesus established nearly 2,000 years ago.

Today's Scripture readings remind us that Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. The main theme of today's readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others, not just a select few - but all people. In other words, the readings remind us that the gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others.

The first reading (Acts 2:1-11), taken from the Acts of the Apostles, describes in detail the miraculous transformation that took place during the first Pentecost, thus fulfilling Jesus' promise to his apostles that they would receive "Power from on high."

There was first "a noise like a strong driving wind." Then there were "tongues as of fire" resting on the disciples, and each of them was filled with the Holy Spirit.

The first manifestation of their reception of the Holy Spirit came when the apostles burst out of doors and began to proclaim the Good News of Jesus; everyone there (regardless of their many different native languages), was able to understand them "in his own tongue." The Jews in the crowds came from sixteen different geographical regions.

Later, the Acts of the Apostles describes how the Holy Spirit empowered the early Christians to bear witness to Christ by their sharing love and strong Faith. This "anointing by the Holy Spirit" also strengthened the early Christian martyrs during the period of brutal persecution that followed.

In Psalm 104, we pray, "Lord, send out Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth," asking God for a "fresh anointing" of the Spirit for all of us.

How beautiful is the thought that the Holy Spirit lives within us all !

Saint Paul reminds the Corinthian community of this fact when he asks, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (I Corinthians 3:16).

It is the Holy Spirit who develops our intimacy with God;

"God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, 'Abba!' ('Father!')" (Gal 4:6).

"God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

"No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:3).

We know that it is the Holy Spirit Who teaches us to pray (Romans 8:26).

By the power of the Spirit, we also know the Lord Jesus through his Church. It is the Holy Spirit who enlivens, enlightens, equips and enables the Church.

Spirit-filled people speak words that heal, restore, make people happy and build people up instead of tearing them down.

Spirit-filled people pass on the love of God to the people living around them by their acts of kindness, mercy and charity.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit for a spirit of love instead of hate, a spirit of helpfulness instead of non-cooperation, a spirit of generosity instead of greed and a spirit of gentleness in place of our spirit of ruthlessness.

Today is a great day to ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, to ignite

the fire of God's love in ourselves, our villages, our communities and our world .

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

Let us pray

"Come Holy Spirit

Make our ears to hear

Make our eyes to see

Make our mouths to speak

Make our hearts to seek

Make our hands to reach out

And touch the world with your love. AMEN."

John Henry Newman

Filled with the Spirit's power,

Go in light and peace of Christ Alleluia, Alleluia

Thanks be to God Alleluia, Alleluia

Amen.