

# **Pentecost Sunday**

*also called Whitsunday*

**Eucharist 9.30am & 11.00am**

**28<sup>th</sup> May 2023**



*Pentecost Icon—Coptic Christian Tradition*

## **The Anglican Parish of Wangaratta West and The Warbys.**

Postal Address: 42a Appin Street WANGARATTA VIC 3677

Tel. 5721 6692. Mob 0427 584 624 (Vicar)

Email: [wangwestac@bigpond.com](mailto:wangwestac@bigpond.com)

Website: <http://www.wangarattawestanglican.org.au>

Welcome to worship on this fiftieth day of Easter.  
(*The word Pentecost means “fiftieth day.”*)

Today we conclude the seven weeks of celebrating our redemption, shown forth in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus and in his sending of the Spirit of God to us. It is the presence of the Spirit in the church that makes God’s action in the dying, rising, and glorification of Jesus of more than historical interest. It is the continued presence of the Holy Spirit that incorporates our lives into the risen life of Christ and makes us part of his Body.

This celebration of the Holy Spirit is, therefore, one of the four times in the year when Holy Baptism is particularly significant in the liturgy. (*The other three times are the Baptism of Our Lord, Easter, and All Saints’ Day.*) It is in Baptism that we receive the Spirit and are made partakers in the resurrection life. In Baptism we are made new members of the company of the apostles, and we are sent forth in the power of the Spirit to proclaim the risen Christ to people of every race and tongue and nation.

We gather in the Eucharist as people reborn by water and the Holy Spirit in Baptism. Gifted with God’s Spirit, we are sent to proclaim good news to every people and language and nation and to be built into a royal priesthood in Christ.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.*



## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

**Hymn** TiS 406/AHB 377. tune, Richmond (331)

1. Spirit divine, attend our prayers  
and make this house your home,  
descend with all your gracious powers:  
O come, great Spirit, come.
2. Come as the light: to us reveal  
our emptiness and woe,  
and lead us in those paths of life  
where all the righteous go.
3. Come as the fire: and purge our hearts  
like sacrificial flame;  
let our whole life an offering be  
to our Redeemer's name.
4. Come as the dove: and spread your wings,  
the wings of peaceful love,  
and let your Church on earth become  
blest as the Church above.
5. Come as the wind, with rushing sound  
and pentecostal grace,  
that all of woman born may see  
the glory of your face.
6. Spirit divine, attend our prayers,  
make this lost world your home;  
descend with all your gracious powers:  
O come, great Spirit, come.

Andrew Reed 1787–1862 alt.

### **The Acclamation & Greeting**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You that sleep, awake, rise from the dead. Alleluia!

**Christ our light will shine upon us. Alleluia!**

Christ has gone up on high. Alleluia!

**He has ascended to the heights of heaven. Alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole universe. Alleluia!

**The Spirit of the Lord  
brings mighty things to pass. Alleluia!**

*Sentence*

‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,’ says the Lord;  
‘and let the one who believes in me drink.  
For out of your heart shall flow rivers of living water.’

John 7.38

*Confession and Absolution*

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world  
and knows our every word and deed.  
Let us then open ourselves to the Lord  
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*Kyrie—if sung repeat 3 times*

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

*Silence is kept for a few moments*

Let us pray

**Gracious and holy God,  
we confess that we have sinned  
against you and against our neighbour.  
Your Spirit gives light,  
but we have preferred darkness;  
your Spirit gives wisdom,  
but we have been foolish;  
your Spirit gives power,  
but we have trusted in our own strength.  
For the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son,  
forgive our sins, and enable us by your Spirit  
to serve you in joyful obedience,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Absolution*

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Hymn of Praise*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*The Collect*

*This prayer 'collects together' our thoughts and prayers  
on the Theme of the Day. It is said or sung by the Priest.*

Almighty God,  
at the feast of Pentecost  
you sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples,  
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:  
empower us with that same Spirit  
to witness to your redeeming love  
and draw all people to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**A Reading from The Acts of the Apostles (2. 1-21)**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 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. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"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.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Hear the word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**Psalm 104. 26-36**

**Lectern (left) side**

*Pulpit (right) side*

**Lord, how various are your works:**

*in wisdom you have made them all,  
and the earth is full of your creatures.*

**There is the wide, immeasurable sea:**

*there move living things without number, great and small;*

**There go the ships, to and fro:**

*and there is that Leviathan whom you formed to sport in the deep.*

**These all look to you:**

**to give them their food in due season.**

*When you give it to them, they gather it:*

*when you open your hand they are satisfied with good things.*

**When you hide your face, they are troubled:**

*when you take away their breath,*

*they die and return to their dust.*

**When you send forth your spirit they are created:**

*and you renew the face of the earth.*

**May the glory of the Lord endure for ever:**

*may the Lord rejoice in his works.*

**If he look upon the earth, it shall tremble:**

*if he but touch the mountains, they shall smoke.*

**I will sing to the Lord as long as I live:**

*I will praise my God while I have any being.*

***May my meditation be pleasing to him:***

***for my joy shall be in the Lord.***

## **A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (12. 1-13)**

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**Gradual Hymn:** AHB 312/ TiS 403. tune Tallis' Ordinal

1. Come, Holy Spirit, Lord of grace,  
eternal fount of love,  
in flame, we pray, our inmost hearts  
with fire from heaven above.
2. As you in bonds of love unite  
the Father and the Son,  
so fill us all with mutual love  
and knit our hearts in one.

Charles Coffin 1676–1749  
tr. John Chandler 1806–76 alt.

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John [20. 19-23]

**GLORY TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

*Sermon*

*Followed by a short time of silence for reflection*



## *Creed*

Let us together affirm our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Come, Holy Spirit.

**Come, renew the face of the earth.**

Holy Spirit, bringing order out of chaos,  
bring order to our actions and purpose to our lives.

**Come, renew the face of the earth.**

Holy Spirit, moving in the deep places of creation,  
move in the depth of our hearts.

**Come, renew the face of the earth.**

Holy Spirit, breathing life into all creatures,  
refresh, renew, restore your people.

**Come, renew the face of the earth.**

Holy Spirit, giver of all good gifts,  
help us to use our talents and abilities aright.

**Come, renew the face of the earth.**

Holy Spirit, giving life to dry bones,  
give hope and joy to all who are weary.  
Restore the lives which without you are dead.

**Come, renew the face of the earth.**

Holy Spirit, giver of love,  
kindle the hearts which without you are dull and cold.  
Fill your church, our hearts and minds with love.

**Come, renew the face of the earth.**

Come, Holy Spirit upon the newly baptized and all new Christians.  
Come upon the recently confirmed  
and all who are growing in their faith.  
Come upon all who are testing their vocations  
and all who are in new work.  
Come upon all bishops, priests and deacons,  
upon all who seek to serve you.  
Come upon all who strive to proclaim your power and your presence.  
Come upon the powerless and the oppressed.  
Come, be known among the unemployed and the exploited.  
Come and comfort the anxious and the fearful.  
Come and give strength to the ill and the dying.  
Come, Holy Spirit.

**Come, renew the face of the earth.**

Lord God Almighty,  
pour upon us Your Spirit, and set us on fire with love for You,  
**that we may bring forth the fruits of love, joy and peace,  
and live to the praise of Your holy name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the Body of Christ. Alleluia.

**In the one Spirit  
we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us therefore keep the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**  
**Alleluia!**

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

**Offertory Hymn TiS 422, tune Diademata (AHB 163)**

- 1. Come, Holy Spirit, come!  
inflame our souls with love,  
transforming every heart and home  
with wisdom from above.  
O let us not despise  
the humble path Christ trod,  
but choose, to shame the worldly-wise,  
the foolishness of God.**
- 2. All-knowing Spirit, prove  
the poverty of pride,  
by knowledge of the Father's love  
in Jesus crucified.  
And grant us faith to know  
the glory of that sign,  
and in our very lives to show  
the marks of love divine.**
- 3. Come with the gift to heal  
the wounds of guilt and fear,  
and to oppression's face reveal  
the kingdom drawing near.  
Where chaos longs to reign,  
descend, O holy dove,  
and free us all to work again  
the miracles of love.**
- 4. Spirit of truth, arise;  
inspire the prophet's voice:  
expose to scorn the tyrant's lies,  
and bid the poor rejoice.  
O Spirit, clear our sight,  
all prejudice remove,  
and help us to discern the right,  
and covet only love.**
- 5. Give us the tongues to speak,  
in every time and place,  
to rich and poor, to strong and weak,  
the word of love and grace.  
Enable us to hear  
the words that others bring,  
interpreting with open ear  
the special song they sing.**

6. **Come, Holy Spirit, dance  
within our hearts today,  
our earth-bound spirits to entrance,  
our mortal fears allay;  
and teach us to desire  
all other things above,  
that self-consuming holy fire,  
the perfect gift of love.**

Michael Lindsay Forster 1946–  
Words © Copyright 1992 Kevin Mayhew Ltd, Rattlesden, Bury St Edmunds,  
Suffolk, IP30 0S2, UK. Used by permission from Thirty New Hymns, Licence No 794092  
Word of Life 2649

Blessed be God,  
who feeds the hungry,  
who raises the poor,  
who fills our praise.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy  
gracious and holy Father,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks.

In the beginning your Spirit swept across the face of the waters,  
bringing order and beauty out of chaos.  
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

Though we turned away from you, your love remained steadfast,  
and you sent your only Son Jesus to be the Saviour of the world.  
At his Baptism in the Jordan he was anointed by your Spirit  
and revealed as your beloved Son.

In the power of the Spirit  
he was sent to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.

Sharing our human nature, he died on the cross.  
Raised again in glory, he lives for ever to pray for us.  
By the gift of the Spirit, whom you have sent in his name,

you bring to completion the work of your Son,  
leading us into all truth, making us a people for your praise  
and giving us power to proclaim the Gospel in all the world.

And so with all the faithful of every time and place,  
we join with choirs of angels in the eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

(♪ ♪ ♪ - *count 3 notes then sing*)

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night before he died,  
the Lord Jesus took bread and gave you thanks.  
He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
‘Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.’ ✕

After supper, he took the cup of wine.  
He gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,  
‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for all people for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.’ ✕

And so, in remembrance of all his mighty acts,  
we offer you these gifts,  
and with them ourselves as a holy, living sacrifice.

**You send forth your Spirit.  
You bind us in love.  
You renew the face of the earth.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us the body and blood of Christ. ✕  
Unite us with him and with one another  
in mission to all the world;  
and bring us with the whole creation  
to your heavenly kingdom.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father eternal,  
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
grant us your peace.**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

#### ***Communion reflection tune, Repton***

1. Be present, Spirit of the Lord,  
let sounds of earth be dumb;  
the Father's love be shed abroad,  
the dew of blessing on us poured:  
    O silent Spirit, come!  
    O silent Spirit, come!
2. In power unseen upon us rest,  
your gracious gifts impart:  
a mind renewed, a spirit blessed,  
a life where Christ is manifest,

an understanding heart,  
an understanding heart.

3. Love's sovereign work of grace fulfil,  
our souls to Christ incline  
intent to do the Father's will  
and stand by faith before him still  
in righteousness divine,  
in righteousness divine.
4. O Spirit come, and with us stay;  
make every heart your home.  
So work in us that we who pray  
may walk with Christ in wisdom's way:  
O Holy Spirit, come!  
O Holy Spirit, come!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

#### THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray

Faithful God,  
who fulfilled the promises of Easter  
by sending us your Holy Spirit  
and opening to every race and nation  
the way of life eternal:  
open our lips by your Spirit,  
that every tongue may tell of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.**

**Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Notices may be given at this point.*

*The priest goes to the Easter Candle*

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.  
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.  
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.  
Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;  
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.  
With the new wine of the Spirit  
they proclaim your reign of love.  
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation  
the way of light is made known.  
Source of freedom, giver of life, blessed are you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Commission**

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death.  
We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

As part of God's Church here in Wangaratta,  
I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.

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

**By the Spirit's power, we will.**

Will you dare to embrace each other  
and grow together in love?

**We will.**

Will you dare to share your riches in common  
and minister to each other in need?

**We will.**

Will you dare to pray for each other  
until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

**We will.**



Will you dare to carry the light of Christ  
into the world's dark places?

**We will.**

*As the Hymn is sung the Easter Candle is taken in Procession  
to the Baptistry*

**Hymn:** TiS 414; tune, Lauds

- 1. There's a spirit in the air,  
telling Christians everywhere:  
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working in our world.'**
- 2. Lose your shyness, find your tongue,  
tell the world what God has done:  
God in Christ has come to stay.  
Live tomorrow's life today.**
- 3. When believers break the bread,  
when a hungry child is fed,  
praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working in our world.**
- 4. Still the Spirit gives us light,  
seeing wrong and setting right:  
God in Christ has come to stay.  
Live tomorrow's life today.**
- 5. When a stranger's not alone,  
where the homeless find a home,  
praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working in our world.**
- 6. May the Spirit fill our praise,  
guide our thoughts and change our ways:  
God in Christ has come to stay.  
Live tomorrow's life today.**
- 7. There's a Spirit in the air,  
calling people everywhere:  
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working in our world.'**

Brian Arthur Wren 1936– Words: Brian Wren  
PressWords © 1969, 1995 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Word of Life 2649

### *Conclusion*

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Today we have remembered the coming of God's power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

### *The Blessing*

May the Spirit,  
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,  
breathe into you the life he gives. **Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who overshadowed the Virgin  
when the eternal Son came among us,  
make you joyful in the service of the Lord. **Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,  
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

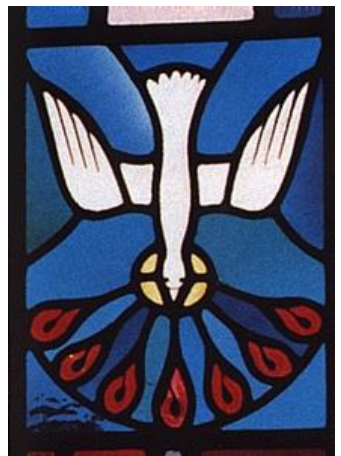
### *The Dismissal*

Filled with the Spirit's power,  
go in the light and peace of Christ.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

*the Easter Candle is extinguished in silence*

This Order of Eucharist is based on Holy Communion Second Order from  
A Prayer Book for Australia © 1995 The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation.  
Scripture is from The New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized Edition  
copyright 1989, 1995 by the Div Christian Edn of the NCCC, USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
The Confession, Greeting of Peace and Great Thanksgiving Prayer are from The Methodist Worship Book 1999 (GB)  
Other material is © Archbishop's Council C of E from Times & Seasons  
This service was revised by N. K. Hicks, June 2017



## **The Liturgy on the Sundays after Pentecost**

The liturgy changes in an important way after the Day of Pentecost. Rather than taking place within specific seasons, each with its own theme, this period does not have one overall theme. Each Sunday takes its theme from the Gospel reading for that day and from the biblical and liturgical meaning of Sunday as the Lord's Day.

The most notable feature of this period is that we finish reading substantially all of one Gospel each year, having begun this in Advent and Epiphany. The three-year lectionary appoints one of the three "synoptic" Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—for each year. John's Gospel is used throughout the three years for certain Holy Days, Lent, and Easter, and in filling out the Gospel of Mark, which is considerably shorter than the others, in Year B. We also read several of the epistles each year during this period.

This, then, is a period in which the liturgy Sunday after Sunday leads us into a serious consideration of the content of Holy Scripture in an orderly way. This time in the Church Year is a time to build on the growth and renewal of grace we experienced in the first half of the year, a time to prepare ourselves to celebrate more fully when we come around again to the seasons from Advent through Easter.

## **The Meaning of Sunday**

A familiar hymn describes the biblical and liturgical meaning of Sunday:

O day of radiant gladness,  
O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness,  
most beautiful, most bright. . .

This day at the creation,  
the light first had its birth;  
this day for our salvation  
Christ rose from depths of earth;  
this day our Lord victorious  
the Spirit sent from heaven,  
and thus this day most glorious  
a triple light was given.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth, alt.

The Day of Creation, the Day of Resurrection, the Day of the Spirit—the Lord's Day is all of these, and for that reason it is the day of celebration for the church. So it is also the baptismal day and the eucharistic day. It used to be said that every Sunday is a little Easter. Another way of saying this is suggested by the Roman Catholic writer, Aidan Kavanagh: Easter is a big Sunday.