



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



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## Overview

Pentecost Sunday is often called the "birthday of the Church." It marks the moment when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were transformed from fearful followers hiding behind locked doors into courageous witnesses who proclaimed the Gospel openly to the world.

The readings focus on the power of the Holy Spirit to renew, unite, and send forth the Church in mission. In the Gospel, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and gives them His peace. This recalls the creation story in Genesis, where God breathed life into Adam. Pentecost therefore represents a kind of "new creation," where believers receive new spiritual life through Christ.

One of the most important themes of Pentecost is courage. Before receiving the Holy Spirit, the disciples were afraid and uncertain. After Pentecost, they preached boldly and joyfully. The Solemnity reminds us that God gives ordinary people the grace and strength needed to live faithfully and witness to Christ in everyday life.

Another key theme is unity in diversity. In the Acts of the Apostles, people from many nations hear the disciples speaking in their own languages. The Holy Spirit gathers people from different cultures and backgrounds into one family of faith without taking away their uniqueness. Pentecost shows us that the Church is universal and united through the Spirit.

Pentecost also reminds us that every baptized person has gifts to offer. Saint Paul teaches that there are many gifts, but the same Spirit. Some are called to teach, others to serve, encourage, lead, or care for those in need. Every Christian has a role in building up the Church.

Finally, Pentecost is a celebration of peace, reconciliation, and divine love. The fire of the Holy Spirit burns away fear, division, and sin, while filling hearts with joy, wisdom, and zeal. The feast invites all believers to open themselves more fully to the Holy Spirit so they may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today.

### Key Messages for Children

1. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help and guide us.
2. The Holy Spirit made the apostles brave enough to share the Good News.
3. Pentecost is called the "birthday of the Church."
4. The Holy Spirit helps us love, forgive, and care for others.
5. We are all part of God's family, and each person has special gifts to share.

### Key Messages for Leaders

1. Help children understand that the Holy Spirit is God's loving presence who guides, strengthens, and comforts us every day.
2. Emphasize the transformation of the apostles from fear to courage, showing children that God can help them be brave in faith and kindness.
3. Present Pentecost as the "birthday of the Church," reminding children that they belong to the Church family through Baptism.
4. Highlight that the Holy Spirit gives every person unique gifts and talents meant to serve others and build up the community.
5. Encourage children to recognize signs of the Holy Spirit in everyday life through peace, joy, love, forgiveness, prayer, and acts of service.

### Leader's Personal Reflection Questions

- How am I allowing the Holy Spirit to guide my ministry with children?
- Do my words and actions reflect the love, joy, and kindness of the Holy Spirit?
- How can I encourage children to pray and listen for the Holy Spirit in their daily lives?

### Leader Takeaway

Help children experience the Holy Spirit through the way they love, guide, and care for others.

## Background

**Acts 2:1–11** Pentecost is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, signified by wind and fire as symbols of God's presence. Luke is telling us that God is forming a new covenant people empowered by the Spirit. This event transforms the disciples from fearful followers into bold witnesses of Christ, granting them wisdom and unity for their mission. The gift of languages underscores the universality of the Gospel across cultures. The Church, born from the Holy Spirit and sustained by grace, is called to proclaim God's saving works, living not by human strength, but through openness to the Holy Spirit's transforming presence.

**Psalms 104** reflects on the world—sky, sea, seasons, animals, and plants—and acknowledges God as Creator and Sustainer. It encourages us to internalize praise and emphasizes that worship involves both an attitude of awe and gratitude and outward expressions. It highlights our dependence on God, noting that without His breath, life ceases, and with His spirit, life is renewed and refreshed.

**1 Corinthians 12.3b-7, 12-13** emphasizes that the Holy Spirit enables us to truly belong to Jesus and each other. It allows Christians to say, "Jesus is Lord," and it provides individuals with different gifts and abilities for the benefit of the whole Church. These gifts are not for boasting or creating hierarchy; rather, they serve the common good, like the parts of a body that work together in harmony. No one is useless in the Church; everyone has a valuable gift from God, and when these gifts are used with love, the community grows stronger and more united in Christ.

**John 20.19-23** After his resurrection, Jesus visits his frightened disciples, offers them peace, shows his wounds to prove his identity, and sends them out with the Holy Spirit, granting them the authority to forgive sins. This demonstrates how Jesus transforms fear into peace and mission. Pentecost is the public manifestation of this gift, as the Holy Spirit empowers the apostles to witness to Christ globally.

## The Liturgy

### Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

**Dear children, today, we celebrate the birthday of the Church when the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles. Go with your leaders and listen to Jesus.**

Once most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the celebration site. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the CLoW room, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

### Welcome

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may offer the following prayer, in these or similar words.

**Let's quiet our hearts and make the Sign of the Cross.**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**God our Father,  
let the Spirit you sent on your Church  
continue to work in the world  
through the hearts of all who believe.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

## READINGS

### FIRST READING

Acts 2.1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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 mighty 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 converts, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

The word of the Lord

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104.1ab+2ac, 29b-30, 31+34

**R.** Lord, send forth your Spirit  
and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
O Lord my God, you are very great.  
O Lord, how manifold are your works,  
the earth is full of your creatures. **R.**

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. **R.**

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works.  
May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
or I rejoice in the Lord. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12.3b-7, 12-13

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: 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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

*A period of silence is observed after the reading.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

It was evening on the day Jesus rose from the dead, 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## REIMAGINED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

The reimagined readings below are intended for use after the children have heard the original reading. The intent is to allow the children to listen to the original reading and help them better understand it (not replace it).

Read at a minimum, the Gospel, which has the highest priority, and then ask the children to sit down. You can then read the reimagined reading. Leaders may not have time to read all of the reading. If time permits, after the Gospel, proclaim the Psalm, and then the first reading, if time permits.

Reimagined readers must always remain faithful to the original Scripture's intent, making it age-appropriate for children to understand.

### FIRST READING

Acts 2.1-11

One day, friends of Jesus were together in Jerusalem on Pentecost. Suddenly, something amazing happened: a loud sound came from the sky, like a fast, strong, mighty wind. Then they saw something like little fiery tongues—like tiny lights of fire. Each friend could see that it was meant for them, and a fiery tongue rested on them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. And then something surprising happened: they began to speak in other languages—languages they didn't know before.

People from many different places and countries around the world were living in Jerusalem. When they heard the sound, they came to the house and were very amazed at what they saw and heard. Each person heard their friends speaking in the language they understood best. And everyone asked, "How can this be? These people are from Galilee—different areas than ours."

They listened as friends talked about God's mighty deeds—the wonderful things God does for us and the world.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104.1ab+2ac, 29b-30, 31+34

**R.** And the earth becomes new again.

Bless the Lord, my soul.

Lord, you are great.

God, you make many wonderful things—  
the whole earth is full of your life. **R.**

When God takes away our breath,  
our bodies stop working.

But when God sends His Spirit,  
new life begins.

God makes the earth feel bright and fresh. **R.**

Lord, your glory lasts forever.

You are happy with the good you do.

I want my thoughts and prayers to please You.

And I will be glad,

because You are the Lord. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12.3b-7, 12-13

Here is something true: No one can say "Jesus is Lord" unless the Holy Spirit helps them. The Holy Spirit gives people different gifts.

The Holy Spirit also helps people do different jobs in the Church. But it is the same Lord. And the Holy Spirit helps people do different activities. But it is the same God working in everyone.

God gives gifts to help others. The Holy Spirit gives each person a gift so that everyone benefits—for the common good. We are like one body

Think about your body. Your body is one, but it has many parts—like hands, feet, eyes, and ears. Even though the parts are different, they all belong to one body. This is how the Church is: We are many people, but we are one family in Christ.

All of us who are baptized belong to Christ's one body. And all of us receive the one Spirit—no matter where we come from or what our lives look like. That means: God gives you something good to share, and your gift helps the whole Church—like one body works together.

On the day that Jesus rose from the dead, his friends were together in a house. The doors were locked because they were scared. Then Jesus came and stood right there among them. He said, "Peace be with you."

Jesus didn't just talk—he showed them his hands and his side, so they would know it was really him.

When the disciples saw Jesus, they felt very happy because they knew that the Lord was alive!

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you." Then he told them, "I'm sending you, just like God sent me." After that, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Jesus also gave them a special job: "If you help people say to God that they are sorry and ask for forgiveness, then God forgives them. But if they don't want forgiveness, it stays the same."

## Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

### **What did you hear?**

Jesus' friends had gathered together, and they were scared. The doors were locked, and they were hiding because they were afraid. Jesus came right into the room and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you."

### **When you feel scared, what do you think Jesus gives you—peace, or worry?**

Jesus said it again: "Peace be with you." He wants his friends to be calm in their hearts, even when life feels scary.

### **Point to your body: Where do you think "peace" lives—in your hands, your feet, or in your heart?**

Jesus showed them his hands and his side, so they would know it was truly him. When the disciples saw the Lord, they felt glad.

### **What makes you happy when you know Jesus is with you—a toy, or Jesus's peace?**

Then Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." That Holy Spirit helps God's friends do God's work, including the work of forgiveness.

### **What do you think the Holy Spirit helps you do—be kind, or be mean?**

Jesus also said: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven..." The Church teaches that, by Christ's will, she has the power to forgive sins, and she normally exercises this power through bishops and priests in the sacrament of Penance.

### **When someone says "I'm sorry," what helps bring them back to God—forgiveness, or holding a grudge?**

This week:

- When you make a mistake: say, "I'm sorry," and ask God for peace.
- When someone is hurt by you: offer a simple, gentle apology.
- When you feel scared: remember Jesus says, "Peace be with you."

**Let's say together: "Jesus, give me peace." (Repeat three or four times.)**

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

## The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition, concluding it with the cue for the response: 'We pray.' All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

The intercessions are said. The Leader introduces them, and an assistant announces them.

The leader says:

**Let us pray to Jesus, who brings peace, gives us the Holy Spirit, and teaches us forgiveness. The response is: Jesus, give us Your peace.**

Assistant:

**For bishops and priests—may God give them joy and courage to help people receive forgiveness in the Church. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For children and families who feel scared, worried, or sad, may Jesus stand with them and say, "Peace be with you." We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For the Holy Spirit to help us make good choices, be kind, and do God's work—just like Jesus breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For hearts that can say "I'm sorry" and accept forgiveness—because Jesus teaches that when people are forgiven, they are truly forgiven. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For children and adults who are sick or in pain—may Jesus give them peace, strength, and courage, and may the Holy Spirit help them and their families. We pray to the Lord. R:**

The Leader says:

**Lord Jesus, you came to your friends and brought peace. Send the Holy Spirit into our hearts, and help us be ready to forgive and be forgiven. Amen.**

## Return to the church

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and reflect on what they have heard and what they are now doing. Be mindful of children who may have difficulty finding their families.



## DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

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Bulletin: TheKidsBulletin.com – **Goodwill donation suggested**

John 20:19-23 - handout provided by thewordthisweek.net

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# ACTS 2:1-11

1. What sound filled the house?

- A. A gentle breeze
- B. A trumpet blast
- C. A mighty wind



5. Why were the people surprised?

- A. The house was empty
- B. They were hearing their own languages
- C. The sun was gone

2. What did they see moving in all directions?

- A. Fiery tongues
- B. Gentle doves
- C. Small stars



6. Where did the speakers of these languages come from?

- A. Galilee
- B. Every country
- C. Egypt and Rome

3. What settled on each person?

- A. A cool mist
- B. A fiery tongue
- C. A soft cloth



7. Who were some of the people from?

- A. Only Rome
- B. Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia
- C. Just Judea



4. How many countries did the people in Jerusalem come from?

- A. Just one
- B. From every country in the world
- C. A few neighboring countries

8. What were they telling about with their own languages?

- A. Their families
- B. The wonderful things God has done
- C. The weather



# PENTECOST



Today is the second biggest feast in the Church year! Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples and the Church was formed. The Apostles went out and began to preach the Gospel and baptize thousands of people, receiving them into the new Church.

The Holy Spirit is God. He is the third Person of the Holy Trinity, after the Father and the Son. Before Jesus came to earth, the Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote the Old Testament part of the Bible. It was the Holy Spirit who brought baby Jesus to the world through Mary. Jesus told His followers that He would send the Holy Spirit to them after He went up into Heaven.



We all need the Holy Spirit. We can't do anything by ourselves. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength we need to do good. Did you know that we wouldn't even pray if the Holy Spirit didn't inspire us to?

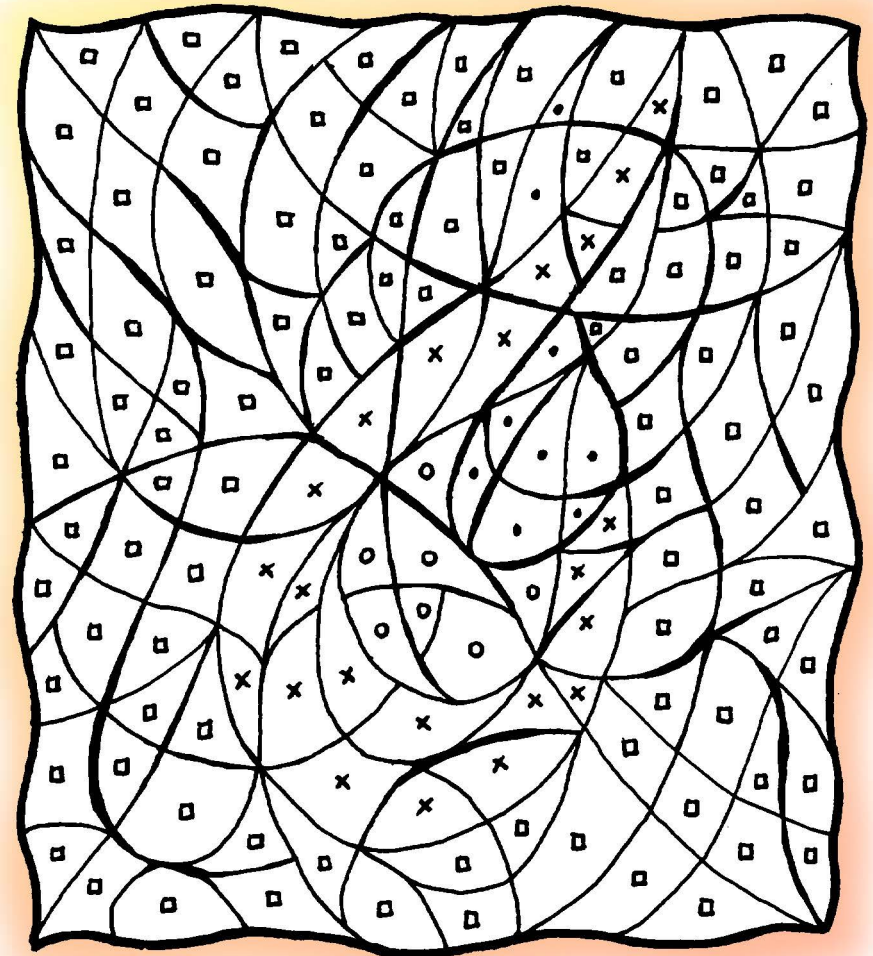


**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever! Amen.**

Answers to Unscramble Puzzle: place, suddenly, wind, house, fire, filled, began, Spirit, BIRTHDAY.

# The Kids' Bulletin

## Pentecost Sunday



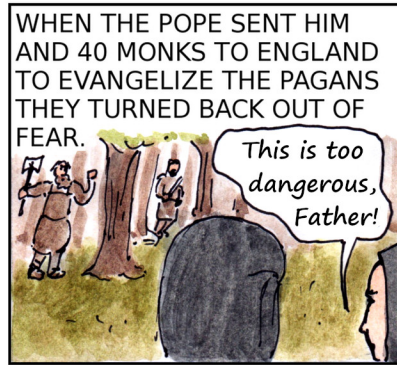
*In what form did the Holy Spirit come to the Apostles on Pentecost?*

*Use this colour code to colour in the picture and find out!*

- red
- orange
- ◻ blue
- × yellow

# Saint Augustine of Canterbury

## May 27



SAINT AUGUSTINE DIED ONLY 7 YEARS AFTER COMING TO ENGLAND. WHILE HE WAS ALIVE THE SAXONS AND THE CELTS DID NOT MAKE PEACE, BUT AFTER HIS DEATH THE FAITH CONTINUED TO SPREAD AND EVENTUALLY THEY MADE UP. BECAUSE OF HIS WORK AND OBEDIENCE TO THE POPE, SOON ALL OF ENGLAND WAS CONVERTED

# Unscramble: The Pentecost Story

Unscramble the words to finish the story and use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the end.

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> [LCPAE] together. And \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> [ENYLUSDD] there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> [DWNLI] and it filled the entire \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> [USHOE] in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> [ERFI] which parted and came to rest on each of them. And they were all \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> [ILFLDE] with the Holy Spirit and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> [GNEAB] to speak in different tongues, as the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> [IPSTRI] enabled them to proclaim.

**Pentecost is the \_\_\_\_\_  
of the Church!**

