

Sunday 19 May 2024

Pentecost



Sermon © Gareth Farnon-Jones.

Liturgy and Prayers of intercession © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

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The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration are included at the end.

The hymn can be accessed via a YouTube link. Please click on the links.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 Come down O Love divine
Come down O Love divine
Come down O Love divine

(traditional choral version)
(modern version)
(orchestral version)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord and we have been privileged to walk with him through his journey of love.

We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross. We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death. We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread. We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord.

And now, with the followers of his own time, we wait the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people, through whom we make Christ known to the world.

The Preparation

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

And the second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

The Spirit of truth will convict the world of guilt about sin, righteousness and judgement. We have grieved the Holy Spirit. So we confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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 for Pentecost

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

First reading

A reading from Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Ezekiel 37:1-14

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place.

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".'

Acts 2:1-21

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

**HYMN 2 Breathe on me, breath of God
Breathe on me, breath of God
Breathe on me, breath of God
Breathe on me, breath of God**

**(click on this link to hear the hymn)
(traditional version, different tune)
(modern version)
(different modern version)**

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All **Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus said], 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

'I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Good morning brothers and sisters.

Pentecost, what a truly wonderful day! Fifty days have passed since Easter, and we celebrated both the death and Resurrection of our Lord. Pentecost by the way, is the Greek term for 'fifty days'.

In the time since Easter we have seen a change, the days are getting longer, and even a little warmer. Plants are flowering, birds and animals are busy after a long winter. The nature all around us is stirring. God's wonderful creation is coming to

life. But the nature that I want to talk to you about today, though, is human nature.

Firstly, the human nature of Christ's disciples. Jesus had ascended to His Father, it was ten days ago that we marked Christ's Ascension into Heaven and Jesus knew that He would need to refocus the minds of His disciples.

You may recall that at the start of our reading from John's Gospel Jesus says 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning'. Jesus is telling those first disciples that in His place they now have the Holy Spirit with them to go with them as they begin to spread the good News of Jesus Christ.

The disciples, being human, and having the nature of humans, were inquisitive and questioned Jesus as to where He is going, what was going to happen to Him and to them. Jesus knew that the disciples would not yet be able to fully understand the divine nature of the Holy Spirit so He explains to them, 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now'. Jesus knew that He needed to protect and guide His disciples and for them to understand that the Holy Spirit would take His place here on earth until He returns.

The Holy Spirit was with us before Christ's birth, indeed when Mary asked the Archangel Gabriel how she, as an unmarried woman might conceive of a child was told that this would happen through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is here with us now and will remain with us until Our Lord Jesus Christ returns.

Let us now reflect on the earlier scripture we listened to from the book of Acts.

The date of Pentecost coincides with the Jewish Festival of Weeks which was one of three pilgrimage festivals in the Jewish calendar and, for that reason, Jerusalem would have been a bustling place with people from all over the region, assembling to celebrate the festival. A great many would only be able to speak the language of the area that they had travelled from. And it was here that the Holy Spirit first appeared to the disciples.

The way that the Holy Spirit manifested itself to the disciples was not in a calm and gentle manner: it certainly was not like a gentle dove descending to the earth; rather, scripture clearly states that it like the rush of a violent wind that filled the entire house. So the disciples had no doubt as to what was happening to them.

We are told that the sound was so loud that a crowd gathered to see what was making this noise. There's human nature again, somethings happening, and everyone wants to know what is going on. The Holy Spirit wasn't finished yet though, to this crowd the disciples began to spread the news of Gods power and deeds. The disciples, who all came from Galilee and as Galileans would have spoken Aramaic, but the Holy Spirit was giving them the ability to speak to everyone listening in

their own native tongue.

Scripture tells us that **all** the crowd were amazed. But, once again, human nature played its part, some began to sneer and said that the disciples were full of new wine, that they were drunk.

St Peter, again obeying his human nature and finding his way as the leader and spokesman for the disciples challenges this accusation of drunkenness by saying that it is only nine o'clock in the morning!

Peter then goes on to quote the prophet Joel. The prophecy he quotes is made by Joel after locusts had devastated Israel. Joel proclaims this as a judgment from the Lord. The sinful human nature, there it is again, human nature, has turned the Israelites from following the Lord and the Lord has punished them. Joel exhorts the people of Israel to repent and return to the Lord, his plea is so impassioned that they do and our Lord forgives them. Not only does our loving God forgive them but He restores their crops and sends Joel a second message. This second message is clear, God will come again, He is coming again in the last days. And in those times, He will pour out His Holy Spirit upon us all. The actual words of Joel's prophecy are 'I will pour out my spirit on all flesh'. Everyone **WILL** feel the presence of the Lord. Think of the coming presence of the Lord in this way, imagine standing, looking at a beautiful lake in the distance, it's a beautiful site but it's some distance from us. On the day that Joel is talking about, when our Lord comes, we will not be looking at this beautiful lake, we will be immersed in it, we will feel it washing over us.

So brothers and sisters, this Pentecost, let us put aside our human nature, our petty concerns, our complaints, and our weaknesses and let us all be immersed in the Holy Spirit of Our Lord. Amen.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

Generous God,
we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness
where there is division, sickness and sorrow.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *gifts* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *fruit* of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the *breath* of your Holy Spirit,
given us by the risen Lord.
We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed,
in the joy of eternal life.
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

Generous God,
you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan,
and upon the disciples in the upper room:
in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,
Lord, come to bless us

All and fill us with your Spirit.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The peace

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 Spirit of the living God (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below.

The Dismissal

HYMN 4 [Veni sancta spiritus](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)
[Veni sancta spiritus](#) (Taizé version)
[Veni sancta spiritus](#) (contemporary choir)
[Veni sancta spiritus](#) (Gregorian version)

The Lord is here!

All **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.

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.

Therefore, as part of God's Church, 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?

All **We will.**

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

All **We will.**

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

All **We will.**

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

All **We will.**

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

All **We will.**

HYMN 5 [Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire](#) (very traditional version)
[Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire](#) (modern take on traditional tune)
[Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire](#) (modern with different tune)

The blessing

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

All Amen

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

All 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.

All Amen

And the blessing of God the Almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is our great high priest
who has entered once for all
into the heavenly sanctuary,
evermore to pour upon your Church
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

He is the one who has gone before us,
who calls us to be united in prayer
as were his disciples in the upper room
while they awaited his promised gift,
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing
as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the Spirit-filled saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

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

Breaking of the Bread

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

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

All **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 peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
you have raised our humanity in Christ
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:
mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.