

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Pentecost, Year C
8 June 2025
John 14:15-16, 23b-26

Catechist Background

The Liturgy gives us two options for Gospel readings in Year C; this resource uses the one which is particular to Year C and not used in Year A (the Year A Gospel reading is John 20:19-23). Other resources for Children's Liturgy of the Word (and some adult resources) may make different choices. There is some overlap with the reading from the Sixth Sunday of Easter. You may wish to speak too about the First Reading (Acts 2) which describes the Pentecost event.

The first Christian Pentecost took place fifty days after the Resurrection, during the Jewish feast of Pentecost. For Jews, Pentecost is a harvest feast held fifty days after Passover, and it celebrated the giving of the Law to Moses. So Jews came to Jerusalem from all over the known world to celebrate it together (which is why there were many people from different regions in Jerusalem on that day). As the Christian feast celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost has been called the birthday of the Church. This is partly true but Pentecost is more than just a birthday: the Church exists not for its own sake, but to bring the Good News to the world. Hence when the Apostles received the Spirit, they didn't keep it to themselves but went and shared it with others.

Red is the liturgical colour for days associated with the Holy Spirit. It reminds us of how the Spirit appeared 'like tongues of fire' at Pentecost, and reminds us of blood and so it is the colour for feast days of martyrs, and Palm Sunday and Good Friday (as we hear the Passion on both days).

Setting the Scene

For this Sunday's activity, you will need inflated balloons decorating your space. To prevent them being a distraction, hang them up, or place them out of reach. Red balloons would be best.

We Say Sorry

Leader: Lord Jesus, you free us from fear, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You give us your peace, Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You have shown us the Holy Spirit, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, may we recognise that the Holy Spirit who led the first Christians continues to work in the world today. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel John 14:15-16, 23b-26

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- What does Jesus say we should do to show that we love him?
- What will happen if we keep Jesus' commandments to love God and love one another?
- What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do?
- Does anyone know what the disciples were able to do when they had received the Holy Spirit? [e.g., spread God's message, heal people, speak different languages, be very brave]

Response

Today, we are celebrating what happened when the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles on a special day called 'Pentecost'. In our Gospel reading we hear about what the Spirit can do for us:

- Do any of you know what it was like when the Holy Spirit came on the first Pentecost?
 - *Some of them may know the Spirit was described like tongues of fire or a noisy wind;*
 - *Some might be frightened by these. It would be important to address these concerns.*
- If we lived 2,000 years ago, what would we have needed fire for?
 - *to keep us warm, to cook our food, to give us light when it is dark.*
- What is wind useful for in nature? What does it do? (for example):
 - *blow seeds to new areas, bring new weather, stir up water to make waves, or make a hot day feel slightly cooler.*

The Holy Spirit can have similar effects on us!

- We cannot normally see air or wind but can see what they do, which proves they are there.
- Likewise, we can't see the Holy Spirit but we can see it working. Look at these balloons:
 - What would the balloons look like without any air inside?
 - If there was a strong wind blowing, what would the balloons be doing?
 - How would people be without the Holy Spirit?
 - What happens when the Holy Spirit 'blows' us? Do we stay still or move like balloons?

We Believe

Relate the Creed to what you have shared with the children by asking these questions and inviting them to reply, 'I do, Alleluia, Alleluia!'

- Do you believe in God the Father who created us and loves us?
- Do you believe in Jesus, God's Son, who came to show us how to live?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who stays with us to remind us of what Jesus has taught?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying: 'On this feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends, we pray...'

Leader: We pray for people whose jobs are all about teaching people about Jesus. May they be good examples of keeping his commandments. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for prime ministers and presidents and all kinds of politicians, that they may make laws that help people to follow God freely. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people in the world who have never heard of Jesus. May they come to know the love and the peace of God. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for our parish community, that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we may build up your community on earth. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, we know that your Holy Spirit can change the world. Send your Spirit to be with us always. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

As today is an important feast, end with a celebration: you could have some joyful music and let the children bounce the balloons or do some dancing (silently if you are constrained by location)!