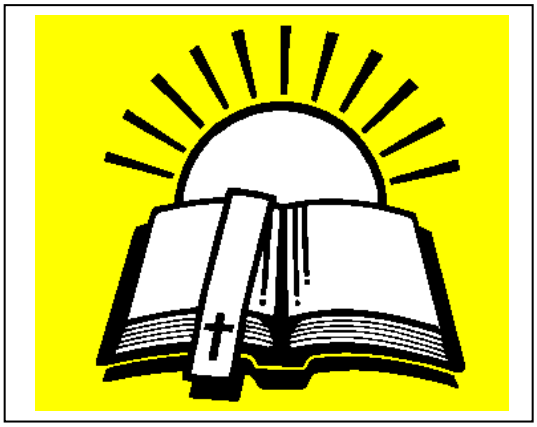
THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

God speaks to us through the words of the Bible.



30 Jesus worked many other miraculous signs for his
disciples, and not all of them are written in this book.
31 But these have been written in order that you may
believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and
that through your faith in him you may have life.
(John 20)

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

20 May 2012

FIRST READING. *Acts 1*

15 One day there was a meeting of the Lord's disciples, about a hundred and twenty in all, and
Peter stood up to speak. 16 He said:
My friends, the scripture had to come true in which the Holy Spirit spoke about Judas, the guide
for those who arrested Jesus. 17 He was a member of our group, for he had been chosen to have a
part in our work. 20 But in the book of Psalms it says: *Let someone else take his place of service.*
21-22 So we need someone else to join us and to bear witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.
He must be one of the men who were in our group during the whole time that the Lord Jesus traveled
about with us, beginning from the time John preached his message of baptism until the day Jesus was
taken up from us to heaven.
23 Two men were suggested: One of them was Joseph Barsabbas, known as Justus, and the other
was Matthias. 24 Then they prayed: Lord, you know the thoughts of everyone, so show us which of
these two you have chosen 25 to serve as an apostle in the place of Judas, who went to the place
where he belongs.
26 They drew names, and Matthias was chosen to join the group of the eleven apostles.

SECOND READING. *1 John 4*

11 Dear friends, since God loved us so much, we must love each other. 12 No one has ever seen
God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and his love comes to fulfillment in us.
13 We are sure that we live in union with God and that he lives in union with us, because he has given
us his Spirit. 14 The Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. This is what we have seen and
what we tell others.
15 If we declare that Jesus is the Son of God, we live in union with God and God lives in union with
us. 16 And we ourselves know and believe the love which God has for us. God is love, and those who
live in love live in union with God and God lives in union with them.

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GOSPEL

John 17. ***Safe in the name of Jesus.***

[11] At the Last Supper Jesus said:
Holy Father, keep my followers safe by the power of the name which you have given me, so that they may be one just as you and I are one. [12] While I was with them, I kept them safe by the power of the name which you gave me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost, except the one who had to be lost. This happened so that what the Scriptures say would come true.
[13] And now I am coming to you, and I say these things in the world so that they might have my joy in their hearts in all its fullness. [14] I have told them your message. But the people of this world hate them, because they don't belong to this world, just as I do not belong to the world. [15] Father, I don't ask you to take my followers out of the world, but I do ask you to keep them safe from the Evil One. [16] They don't belong to this world, and neither do I. [17] Your word is the truth. So let this truth make them completely yours. [18] I am sending them into the world, just as you sent me. [19] I have given myself completely for their sake, so that they may belong completely to the truth.
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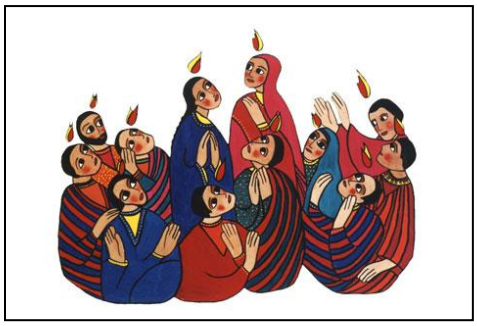
SCRIPTURE READINGS

FEAST OF PENTECOST

27 May 2012



FIRST READING. *Acts 2*

1 On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were gathered together in one place. 2 Suddenly
there was a noise from the sky like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were
meeting. 3 Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, which spread out
and touched each person there. 4 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other
languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.
5 Many religious Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. 6 And when they
heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. But they were surprised, because they were hearing
everything in their own languages. 7 They were excited and amazed, and said: These people who are
talking like this are Galileans! 8 Then why do we hear them speaking our very own languages? 9
Some of us are from Parthia, Media, and Elam. Others are from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia,
Pontus, Asia, 10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya near Cyrene, Rome, 11 Crete, and Arabia.
Some of us were born Jews, and others of us have been converted to Judaism. Yet all of us hear them
speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!

SECOND READING. *Galatians 5*

16 If you are guided by the Spirit, you will not satisfy the selfish desires of the human nature. 17
For the selfish desires of our human nature are opposed to what the Spirit wants, and what the Spirit
wants is opposed to our selfish desires. These two are enemies, and this means that you cannot do
what you want to do. 18 But if the Spirit leads you, then you are not subject to the Law of Moses.
19 Our selfish desires plainly show themselves in immoral, filthy, and indecent actions. 20 People
worship idols and practice witchcraft. They become enemies and they fight; they become jealous,
angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups; 21 they are envious, get drunk, have
orgies, and do other evil things as well. I told you before, and I am telling you again: No one who
does these things will share in the blessings of God's kingdom.
22 But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 humility,
and self-control. There is no law against behaving in any of these ways. 24 And because we belong to
Christ Jesus, we have put to death our selfish feelings and desires. 25 God's Spirit has given us life,
and so the Spirit must also control our lives.

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GOSPEL

John 15 - 16. *The promise of the Spirit.*

15, [26] At the Last Supper Jesus said:

I will send you the Spirit who comes from the Father and who reveals the truth about God. The Spirit will help you and will speak about me. [27] And you, too, will speak about me, because you have been with me from the very beginning.

16, [12] I have much more to say to you, but right now it would be more than you could understand. [13] The Spirit who reveals the truth about God will come and guide you into the full truth. The Spirit doesn't speak on his own authority. He will tell you only what he has heard, and will tell you of things to come. [14] The Spirit will bring glory to me by taking my message and telling it to you. [15] Everything that the Father has is mine. That is why I have said that the Spirit takes my message and tells it to you.

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