

## **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

### The New Breath of God; The New Creation; The Holy Spirit: Reflections

Our breathing is something we take for granted, until we have problems with it. When people with damaged lungs tell me what it is like to breathe, I know I can't fully understand their fear, anxiety and even terror. I have seen people breathe their last; it is somewhat of a shock to see the lifeless body. We know that something vital is gone. God's great breath gave all things at the beginning of time. Jesus breathed out that breath when he died. When he had risen and ascended, he sent that Breath, the Holy Spirit, to recreate our world in God's image and likeness. That breath is so powerful it is described as a "mighty wind" in today's reading. Life-giving Holy Spirit of God, we pray you to fall afresh on each of us this Pentecost Sunday. Gentle and refreshing Spirit, you are grateful coolness in the heat of life. You are the love of the Father and the Son. That power of love is so great that it is a distinct Person. You live within us, you live among us. Let us be quiet and listen to your voice within - that still small voice that is only audible when we are quiet. Help us to listen. So often we babble off prayers but are afraid to stop and listen because we might really hear God's voice. Today is a time to touch that deep peace within us. It is a time to ask the Holy Spirit to use His purifying fire to burn selfishness, fear and sin from our hearts. Gentle Spirit breathe your creating breath over us again as you did at the beginning of creation. Recreate us anew. Lift up the tired hands that are falling down. Breathe a new breath of life into us as you did at the Valley of dead men's bones. Take those hearts that are broken and sad and make them well again. Come Holy Spirit with the mighty power of your breath and fire. Come and free the locked doors of our hearts, and let us live again. Come, creating, healing, and refreshing Spirit. Renew our lives and let us use our God-given talents. Come into the center of our hearts, hearts where hope and goodwill are mixed with darkness, hurt and failure. Come, and be present there at the center of our existence. Come Holy Spirit, for you are our beloved; You are the friend who does not go away. It is surely you we read about in the Song of Songs: "Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one and come! For see, the winter is past, the rains are over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of pruning the vines has come, and the song of the dove is heard in our land."

Acts 2, 1-11. The Holy Spirit came on the Apostles like fire and wind. All the different nationalities heard them speak in their own language.

Ps. 104, 1, 24, 29-31, 34. God has created everything in the world and it gives Him glory. May He send His Spirit to constantly renew our world.

COR. 12, 3-7, 12-13. All the gifts we have received are to be accepted as gifts, for the good and unity of the Body of Christ because it is the one Spirit who gives all and unites all.

John 20, 19-23. On Easter Sunday Jesus came and touched the fear of the Apostles, showed them His wounds, gave (wished) them peace, and breathing on them, gave them the Holy Spirit with the power to forgive sins.