

# The Order of Service for Home Worship



## THE DAY of PENTECOST – Whitsunday

Hymn: Breathe on me, Breath of God,

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that as you love so may I love,  
and do what you would do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with yours,  
to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fulfil my heart's desire,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with your heavenly fire.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die,  
but live with you the perfect life  
of your eternity.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Father of glory, holy and eternal, look upon us now in power and mercy. May your strength overcome our weakness, your radiance transform our blindness, and your Spirit draw us to that love shown and offered to us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

As we come into the presence of our heavenly Father let us seek his forgiveness of our sins that we may know his peace in our hearts.

Lord Jesus, you raise the dead to life in the Spirit. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you give light to those who live in darkness. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, glory be to God on high;  
Alleluia, to the Saviour who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia, Alleluia, to the Triune Majesty.**

**Collect:** God, who 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. **Amen.**

**A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles. 2. 1-21**

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 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." This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalms 104. 24-35**

**Response: Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. **(R)**

There go the ships and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. **(R)**

When you hide your face, they are dismayed; 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 ground. **(R)**

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works – who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke. **(R)**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord. **(R)**

Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. O praise the Lord! **(R)**

### **A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 12. 3b-13**

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. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. 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. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!** "As the Father has sent me, so I send you," says the Lord. Receive the Holy Spirit. **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St. John

20 19-23

### Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Meditation:

*Today, we are celebrating the Feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the church. Pentecost means fifty days and symbolizes the fifty days we have journeyed since the resurrection with the liturgical colour in the churches being red as it represents the presence of the Holy Spirit. Over 2,000 years ago on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, and through the Holy Spirit the church was born. Pentecost is a time to consider how the Spirit has created and sustained faith in our lives. It is a time to explore how the Spirit empowers our witness so that others might have faith. We need to continually ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our worship and also in our daily lives. We need to cast aside our prejudices and presuppositions and listen to the Spirit of truth, who reminds us of the teachings of Jesus and encourages us to apply them. The Holy Spirit is more than a tool to help us overcome life's challenges, but much of what we are asked to do is far beyond what we are called to do. On our own, we are never enough. The Spirit will give us the strength we need to do God's work in our world. Pentecost is the day when we remember the eruption in which the Church came to birth. It is also the day when we remember the countless ways in which the Holy Spirit shapes the Church as an institution and ourselves as individuals. It is also the day when we are reminded that once we have received the Holy Spirit, we are required and enabled to take a stand for good and against evil in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. The Holy Spirit will teach us to love God and neighbour and he will reward us by giving us a life worth living. That life won't be easy or trouble-free, but it will be worth living and dying for and that is the greatest birthday gift of all. Amen.*

### Intercessions:

In the power of the Holy Spirit and in union with Christ let us bring our prayers for the Church and for the world to our heavenly Father.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, for the leaders of the Church among them Mary our Bishop. We pray for the clergy and people of our diocese and for our own ministry area; may the Church faithfully proclaim the risen Christ, the sure ground for hope in the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression in conflicts around the world, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; may the power of the risen Christ bring peace where there is conflict and reconciliation where there is division.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community, for our families, friends and neighbours. We give thanks for all who serve the needs of the vulnerable; may we witness to the risen Christ in our daily lives, bringing your love and peace to all with whom we share our lives.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, for those who are sick, for those who are bereaved, for the lonely and isolated and for all in any kind of need. We hold in our hearts before God those known to us who are in need at this time and all whose names are recorded in our intercession books; relieve them according to their need, strengthen them with your Holy Spirit and console them with the love of Christ.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died. We remember before God our own departed loved ones and we pray for the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time; welcome them and all the departed into the eternal joy and peace of your heavenly kingdom.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring all our prayers to our heavenly Father as we pray together:

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy Kingdom come,**

thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom,  
The power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Peace:**

The fruit of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If we live by the Spirit let us also walk by the Spirit.

The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

**Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Blessing:**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The peace of God which is beyond all understanding guard your hearts in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Hymn: Holy Spirit, come, confirm us**

1. **Holy Spirit, come, confirm us  
in the truth that Christ makes known;  
We have faith and understanding  
through your promise light alone.**
2. **Holy Spirit, come, console us,  
come as Advocate to plead;  
Loving Spirit from the Father,  
grant in Christ the help we need.**
3. **Holy Spirit, come, renew us,  
come yourself to make us live;  
holy through your loving presence,  
holy through the gifts you give.**
4. **Holy Spirit, come, possess us,  
you the love of Three in One;  
Holy Spirit of the Father  
Holy Spirit of the Son.**

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