

Cycle A – Pentecost – May 24, 2026

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit”

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 104)

All: Alleluia, alleluia!

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord, my God, you are very great.
O Lord, how manifold are your works!
The earth is full of your creatures.

All: Lord, send out your spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

Leader: When you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.

All: When you send forth your spirit,
they are created.
You renew the face of the earth.
Amen. Alleluia.



Gospel Reading – John 20:19-23

On that first Easter evening, John describes disciples gripped by fear. Jesus appears, and had to speak peace twice before that fear started to dissipate. Jesus’ breathing of the Spirit carries echoes of Genesis 2 when God created the first human being and “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” John’s indication that Jesus’ bringing of the Holy Spirit took place on the evening of the day of Resurrection led Tertullian (a third century theologian) to establish that the Fifty Days of Easter are in fact one “great Sunday.”

1. Recall a time when the Holy Spirit gave you courage to move from fear to confidence.
2. What gift or skill do you hesitate to use? What would help you overcome your fear?

LIVING THE WORD

God’s challenge – take on a task you have been afraid to embark on.

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: For courage to stare down our own fears, for perseverance to walk with those who are gripped by fear, for deeper faith and commitment to love. *We pray to the Lord...*

(Invite personal intentions, ending with “Our Father...”)

Concluding Prayer:

Leader: Risen Jesus, you appear in glory
despite the locked doors in our hearts.

**All: You banish our fears with your peace,
a peace the world cannot give.**

Leader: Risen Jesus, you call us to put all gifts
at the service of your body on earth, the church.

**All: Help us strengthen our unity in you
through the diversity of backgrounds and gifts.
Alleluia. Amen.**

Leader: Let us share with one another the peace of the risen Lord.