

Pentecost – a liturgy for use at home

This service can be used at any time on the day of Pentecost. If the weather is warm enough you may wish to open the windows so that the wind moves through the room. Each member of the household may wish to hold a candle, or to have a lit candle in front of them.

O Lord, open our lips,
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All-Powerful God, in the beginning your Spirit swept across the waters of chaos, fashioning the world by the breath of your love. In every generation your Spirit is poured afresh making all things alive and directing your creation according to your loving plan.

Fulfil the promise of these Fifty Days with the abundant harvest of your Spirit's gifts. May the fire of your Holy Spirit burn within us and the breath of your power fill us with love and joy and peace, so that the whole of creation may resound with the presence of your Son, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Creator of the world, have mercy
Source of all goodness, have mercy
Wash away our sins

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Light of the world, have mercy
mercy
Strength of the faithful, have mercy
mercy
Look on us, wounded by sin
mercy

Christ, have
Christ, have
Christ, have

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, have mercy
One God in three persons, have mercy
Renew your Spirit within us, and give us new life

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

You may wish to sing this hymn, or to pray the words aloud:

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.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fulfil my heart's desire,
until this earthly part of me
glows with your heavenly fire.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

Edwin Hatch (1835-1889) © 1999 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

Psalm 67

If your household is saying the service together you may wish to say alternate verses of the psalm. At the end of the psalm all say together:

Glory to the God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Acts 2. 1-21

If you have a lit candle in front of you, all those who are able to may wish to hold the candle in their hands while listening to the reading.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!

Jesus said: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments; and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever – the Spirit of truth.'
(John 14:15-17a)

I believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist.

I believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again.

I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world.

This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

You may wish to sing this hymn, or to pray the words aloud:

O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

If there are children in your household, then they may wish to say the first lines about the fruits of the Spirit while the adults continue with the rest of the prayers. Where the prayers state that we remember those who are ill, suffering or grieving you may wish to pause and to name aloud the people you are praying for.

We pray that God's Holy Spirit may direct our lives.
Lord, come to bless us. Fill us with your Spirit.

'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace.'
Father, we know that our world needs love and harmony. Help us to live in peace with our household and neighbours, we pray that you will soothe frayed tempers and raise fallen spirits. In the midst of this pandemic, from which no country is exempt, may we find a pathway for nations to work together in harmony.
Lord, come to bless us. Fill us with your Spirit.

'The fruit of the Spirit is patience, kindness and goodness.'

Father, we know that our world is starved of love and care. We thank you for those who care for the sick and the vulnerable, for those who care for us; help us always to remember the value of caring. We remember the people we know who are ill, suffering, or grieving today; we ask you to surround them with your boundless love, and to bring them comfort and healing. Lord, come to bless us. Fill us with your Spirit.

'The fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'

Father we know that our world is short of truth and justice. We pray for those who work in government, for the Police, and all who work in the administration of justice; may your Spirit of justice guide all that they do. We pray for all those who work in the media; may your Spirit of truth guide all that they do. We pray for ourselves; may our ears always be open to hear the truth, and our hearts always be willing to work for justice. Lord, come to bless us. Fill us with your Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer *is said.*

If you know how to pray the Lord's Prayer in more than one language, then you are invited to pray in whichever language feels right to you. This may mean that there are several languages being spoken in your household, just as there were by the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

Living God, eternal Holy Spirit,
let your bright intoxicating energy
which fired those first disciples
fall on us to turn the world again.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.

May the Spirit, who moved over the face of the waters at creation,
breathe into you the life he gives. Amen.

May the Spirit, who overshadowed the Virgin Mary
when our Lord Jesus Christ came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord. Amen.

May the Spirit who,
like wind and flame, came upon the disciples at Pentecost,
help you in bringing the world alive
with the love of the risen Christ. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, evermore. Amen.