



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST — YEAR A**

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 51b

**A: Come, Holy Spirit,
renew our hearts and kindle in us
the fire of your love.**

L: O Lord, open my lips,

G: and my mouth will declare your praise.

L: You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

**G: you do not take pleasure in burnt
offerings.**

L: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**G: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you
will not despise.**

L: Create in me a pure heart, O God,

G: and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

L: Do not cast me from your presence

G: or take your Holy Spirit from me.

L: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

**G: and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain
me.**

L: Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

G: and sinners will turn back to you.

**A: Come, Holy Spirit,
renew our hearts and kindle in us
the fire of your love.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.

READING & MEDITATION *see next page*

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**A: 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
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

**A: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your
faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of
your love.**

BENEDICTION

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

A: Amen

READING AND MEDITATION:

The Coming of the Holy Spirit—The Day of Pentecost: I will pour out my Spirit. God's Old Testament people celebrated the gathering of the harvest at the Festival of Weeks. On the fiftieth day, God sent the promised Counselor on the day we call "Pentecost" (Greek for "fifty" from the LXX in Lev 23:15: ἀριθμήσετε πενήκοντα ἡμέρας). This day marked the birthday of the New Testament Church and celebrates the harvest of souls won by the Son and gathered by his servants empowered by his Spirit. Pentecost is the third great festival of the Church and has been commemorated since at least 217 A.D. The Church dresses in red to remind us of the tongues of fire that marked the Spirit's gift and the blood of the martyrs which was the seed of the Church. This day culminates the Season of Easter when our risen Lord now empowers his people to be witnesses of the resurrection for the world.

As you study this week, seek to find the connecting theme in all the lessons by using Luther's Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 16:5-11

How could Jesus' departure be advantageous for the disciples? Only when Jesus had finished his redemptive work and returned to the Father would he send the Counselor. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fulfilled this promise of Jesus as the Counselor who would work on the world by dwelling in his disciples. His great work is to convict the world in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment. As the Holy Spirit prompted the disciples to preach the Gospel, both believers and unbelievers heard and were convicted in regard to sin—resulting in either repentance or obduracy. The Holy Spirit convicts the world in regard to righteousness, because the purchase price for righteousness had now been paid, ("I am going to the Father"), and the world would either receive it by faith or reject it in unbelief. The Holy Spirit convicts the world in regard to judgment, because although the world has not yet been judged, its ruler has (Revelation 20). The preaching of the Gospel never leaves hearts the same: by either quickening or hardening, the Spirit convicts mankind.

My takeaways:

Devotional material taken from Jonathan E. Schroeder, *Year A*. Jonathan E. Schroeder, ed., *Planning Christian Worship* (WELS Commission on Worship, 2010). Visit www.BreadForBeggars.com for more resources.

FIRST LESSON: JOEL 2:28-29

In the Old Testament God poured out his Spirit on the prophets and so revealed his will through visions and dreams. In Numbers 11, God anointed the 70 elders with his Spirit so that they prophesied. When Moses' young aide loyally objected to some of the elders prophesying in the camp, Moses said, "I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!" The prophet Joel said that one day, Moses' wish would be fulfilled. But when? "Afterward," in the Messianic age, in the last age of the earth that began on the day God kept the promise of Joel and the wish of Moses and put his Spirit on all his people.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ACTS 2:1-21

The Church follows in the footsteps of Christ who was prepared for his ministry by a dramatic, visible outpouring of the Spirit at his baptism. Jesus kept his promise to baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The real miracle of Pentecost is the transformative gift of the Holy Spirit, taking timid followers of Jesus and making them bold witnesses who carried the Gospel to the world. The sound of the violent wind served as a sign, but was not the gift. The tongues of fire marked its arrival, but they were not the gift. Miraculously speaking in foreign languages was a result, but it was not the gift. "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit." Moses wished it; Joel foretold it; the disciples lived it. The sin that had scattered mankind at Babel had been atoned. The last age of the earth (vv 19-21) wouldn't be marked by the dividing of the peoples, but by their uniting into the Church of Christ where there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female.

My takeaways:

What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?