

**We get ready to worship at home**

*You may prepare to worship by placing a cross, a candle and bible near you. Light the candle.*

**We begin**

Today is Pentecost day. It's a day when we celebrate that God has promised to pour out his Spirit on all people. God's Spirit is with us and so we pray out loud:

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

**In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

**We remember**

In John 14 Jesus said to his disciples: I will ask the Father, and he will give you another counsellor to be with you forever – The Spirit of Truth. ... The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, at the time of the Pentecost Festival, the Holy Spirit came upon the people in Jerusalem.

Let's remember that day by reading Acts 2:1-21

Open your bible and read Acts 2:1-21 The coming of the Holy Spirit

Or watch this visual retelling <https://youtu.be/MtTjgmlUtps>

**Confession and Declaration of Grace**

Let us call on the name of our lord, and ask him to forgive us and save us.

**Lord God, We are sorry when we forget what you have done for us. We are sorry we forget that you have given us the Holy Spirit to help us love and serve others.**

**We are sorry that we don't always love and serve others the way you call us to.**

**Thankyou that Jesus Christ died and rose again to forgive me and make me holy.**

**Thank you for your Holy Spirit.**

**Help me to recognise his guidance every day.**

**In Jesus name we pray.**

**Amen.**

*The Good News is that God has mercy on us and has given us Jesus Christ to die for us, to forgive us for all our sins and make us his holy children. He has given us his Holy Spirit to work in us and through us each day. His Spirit gives us the confidence that everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ will be saved and have eternal life. ... So may the almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins.*

**Amen.**

### **We sing or reflect**

#### **159LH O for a thousand tongues**

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and king,  
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honours of Thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free;

His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood avails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations; own\_  
Your God, ye fallen race;  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
Be justified by grace.

See all your sins on Jesus laid;  
The Lamb of God was slain;  
His soul was once an offering made  
For every soul of man.

Glory to God, and praise, and love,  
Be ever, ever given  
By saints below and saints above,  
The Church in earth and heaven.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

### **We prepare to listen deeply to God's Word**

Lord God, you taught the hearts of your faithful people  
by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit.

Fill us with the same Spirit, so that we may love what is right  
and always rejoice in his comfort.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Second Reading

So what does the Holy Spirit give to us and why? Let's find out!

Open your bible and read 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 The gifts of the Spirit

*After the reading you may respond:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

Today's Gospel reading shares the Pentecost Story according to the Gospel of John. Jesus appears to his disciples and gives his Spirit to them.

Open your bible and read John 20:19-23 Jesus gives his Spirit to the apostles

Or watch this video presentation of the Gospel

<https://youtu.be/WKDLOrRW5YA>

*After the gospel you may respond:*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Sermon The Texts: Numbers 11:24-30, Acts 2:1-21, John 7:37-39

The Spirit Speaks God's Word (thank you to LCA worship planning)

*Wer dann den Namen des Herrn anruft, wird gerettet werden.*

Don't worry, I have not had too much wine. It is only the morning. But I did get your attention, even though most of you do not understand what I just said.

That was the gospel message from Peter's Pentecost Day sermon in German: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Those of you who speak German may have understood what I was saying, but you were probably confused as to why I was speaking a language different from what you usually hear from my lips. The rest of you probably thought I was out of my tree.

This is the kind of confusion among the crowd on the day of Pentecost, when God poured out His Holy Spirit on the disciples and they spoke the

Gospel in different languages. Pentecost had never sounded like that before. God was doing something new. You see Pentecost was originally a Jewish festival that celebrated the end of the barley harvest that began 50 days previously at Passover (Deut 16:9-12). Over time Pentecost became a celebration to remember God giving the Law to Moses on Mt Sinai.

But in His Son, God gave new meaning to both Passover and Pentecost. Passover became Easter, the day when Christ rose from the dead, having paid the price for all sin in His dying on Good Friday, and defeating death in His resurrection. God also gave a new and lasting meaning to Pentecost: the day when He gave the Holy Spirit to all believers.

At that time Jerusalem was full of faithful Jews who had come from nations far and near to celebrate the end of the harvest and the giving of God's Law. In the hustle and bustle of the festival Jesus' followers were gathered together in one place when suddenly, they heard the sound of rushing wind, and it filled the place where they were. Then tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them, and by the power of the Holy Spirit they began to speak in foreign languages.

People from those nations were amazed. They heard in their mother tongue the mighty works of God. The Lord had the attention of the crowd, but they didn't understand what was going on. Bewildered and confused at what they saw and heard, the crowd asked the question that we know so well from Luther's Small Catechism, "What does this mean?"

With the confusion before him, Peter stood up to address them. In the past when Peter had spoken on behalf of the apostles, he often put his foot in his mouth. Not at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit opened his mind to understand that the events unfolding before them were prophesied by the prophet Joel. The Spirit showed Peter that the prophecy of Joel about the outpouring of God's Spirit spoken hundreds of years before was being fulfilled among them.

Peter quoted Joel's words to the crowd, saying, "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy."

The Spirit of God led Peter into the word of God to understand that the word was being fulfilled. The Spirit also led Peter to prophesy, but not about events yet to take place. He preached about what God had done through Christ to save all people from sin and death, and give them life eternal. He would go on to talk about baptism as the means by which God grants forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

The Spirit didn't give Peter a new word from God; the Spirit brought God's written word to Peter's remembrance and then guided him to speak it to the crowd for their salvation. Here we see the main work of the Holy Spirit. He does not draw attention to Himself; He points to Jesus, He directs our thoughts to Christ and His cross, He brings the words of the Gospel to life in us, so that we might have faith in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

At His ascension, Jesus said that His disciples would proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem, but stay in Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high (Lk 24:47). Pentecost is the fulfilment of Jesus' own words. By the power of the Holy Spirit the apostles took the message of the Gospel to the world.

Notice that Peter didn't make a mess of his words like he had in the past. The Holy Spirit not only opened the Scriptures for him to see Christ in them, but also gave him the words to proclaim Christ crucified to the crowd. The Holy Spirit made Peter a new man.

The Holy Spirit makes new people of us all. In Baptism, we are born again by water and the Spirit (Jn 3:5). In Baptism God saves us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). You have life because the Holy Spirit lives in you. God has made you a new person.

Reborn as children of God in Baptism by the power of the Spirit, the Spirit then shapes us through the Word to think and live as God's people. As you read the Scriptures the Spirit comes to you to open your heart and mind. Through the Law your sin is exposed, but not to drive you away from God. Rather, being made aware of sin, the Spirit turns our eyes toward Christ and the forgiveness He brings. God's words of forgiveness and grace in the Bible are brought to life and applied to you so that you can know with certainty that Christ died for you, that you are forgiven. The more time you listen to God's Word, the more the Spirit preaches the Word of God in your heart.

But God's Word is not limited to the time you spend at home reading the Bible. The words we use in our worship are from the holy Scriptures. We sing, confess and proclaim the mighty works of God in the Divine Service. The Spirit uses the liturgy to proclaim the grace of God to you. The hymns of the Church proclaim us forgiven. We worship using God's Word so that we receive God's grace through the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

With the Word of God and the Spirit of God living in us, we listen to the leadings and promptings of the Spirit who guides our thoughts and actions to be Christ like. The Spirit directs us away from temptations to sin. This is God's answers to the Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, lead us not into temptation. When we face dangers the Spirit brings to our remembrance words of comfort and protection, like The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? (Ps 27:1), or I lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth (Ps 121:1, 2). At all times the Spirit is speaking the Word to us. He directs us to Christ who is our Rescuer and our Redeemer, that we would trust in Him and receive the help He gives.

The Spirit also speaks God's Word to us for the benefit of others. Peter proclaimed God's Word to the benefit of the crowd, and three thousand people were baptised on that day (Acts 2:41). As the sons and daughters of God, you are called to preach the Word into the lives of others by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will bring the Word of God that you know to your remembrance to suit whatever situation you face. He whispers the Word into your ear and puts it in your mouth so you can speak of His mighty works to others. You might not know exact chapter and verse, but you know the love God has poured out through Christ to grant forgiveness and salvation to all people.

When you feel the Spirit leading you to speak about Christ, let the words roll off your tongue. When a friend shares their problems, let them know that God loves them too. Like Peter, let the Spirit guide you to speak the Gospel into people's lives in simple ways that change their life. Trust God. He knows what people need to hear. Let the Spirit use you to bring the Good News of Jesus to others for their healing and salvation.

The Holy Spirit does not twist your arm to make you believe in Jesus or force you to live a Christian life. He gently leads you into the Word of God. He grants you God's grace and forgiveness, to show you how to be

a disciple of Jesus, to grow in your baptismal life. He won't force you to read the Bible or confess your sins, but He does invite you to come and hear the Word and be forgiven.

Each day, the Holy Spirit reminds you that you are a baptised child of God. You are forgiven. The Father has done everything necessary to take away your sin. He sent the Son to die for you, and He has given you His Spirit as a guarantee of His love. God cares for you so much that He grants you His Spirit so you can believe and be saved. Glory be to God; He has given Himself for our salvation and He promises to keep on giving. Amen.

### Activity & Reflection

The Holy Spirit gives us many kinds of gifts. All his gifts are to be used for the common good of others so that all may experience God's love and service. Sometimes we need other people to help us recognise the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to us.

Take a moment to encourage one another in your household by telling one another the gifts you see in each other:

You could do it this way: You may wish to make a 'Pentecost card' for them. Get a piece of paper and a pencil. Fold the paper to make a 'greeting card'. On the front of the card draw a flame or a dove or another symbol that reminds you of the Holy Spirit. Inside the card write something like this:

Dear.....

I thank God for the special gifts God's spirit has given you. Thank you for using your gifts to the Glory of God:

Thank you for.... (write down the things you notice about them)

May God strengthen you and work through you so that you may continue to use the gifts he has given you to serve and bless others.

With love from...

## Prayer of the Church

Let us pray

Father, we thank you that, as you had promised, you gave your Holy Spirit to all your people at Pentecost. Continue to pour out your life-giving Spirit on us and all people throughout the world and equip people everywhere with gifts of love and service.

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

God, You brought light out of darkness and order out of chaos by your Spirit in the creation of the world. Let your Spirit move over our unruly world and heal its broken people. Continue to bless and protect all who use the gifts you have given them to care for the sick and protect our community. We pray especially for all Doctors and health care workers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, You sent out your Spirit on the disciples like the rush of a mighty wind and distributed tongues of fire on their heads. Burn out all that is evil in us; bless all your people for holy service, and empower them to work with you for the salvation of the world. Give to all your people big hearts that want to serve in our homes and our community.

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

Lord Jesus, you inspired the disciples with your Spirit to praise your marvellous deeds in many different languages. Give to all your people the confidence to speak of your love and grace, so that all people may joyfully confess you as their Lord.

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

Lord Jesus, your Spirit touched the hearts of those who heard the gospel from Peter. Sharpen the consciences of those who hear your word and convince them of its truth, so that they may turn from their sins and receive the gift of forgiveness.

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

You gave the Holy Spirit to all those who were baptised on the day of Pentecost. Let your Spirit renew the faith of all who have been baptised, so that they may devote themselves to Christian living, listening to your word and using their gifts in service to others. Renew our household each day that we may love and serve one another with your gifts to us.

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

You united people from many different nations and cultures by your Holy Spirit. Bring together those who have been divided by misunderstanding, hatred, and mistrust, and join us with them and all the angels as we adore you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

We sing [What a friend we have in Jesus – LHB 426](#) OR [Your Will Be Done, CityAlight](#)

#### **426LH What a friend we have in Jesus**

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge!  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Joseph Scriven (1820-1886)

### Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour, and give us peace.  
**Amen.**

**May the Spirit of God fill you with Peace and Joy! Amen.**

## Final songs

### May we be one OR Wonder - Hillsong UNITED

#### **800LH May we be one**

May we be one,  
bound in love for ever,  
growing close together day by day;  
growing as God fills us with his life;  
we are joined in him, he makes us  
one.

May we be one,  
as our Father planned it.  
May the love of Jesus make us  
strong,  
no one can harm us when he is  
near;  
he has brought us peace, he makes  
us one.

May we be one —  
Jesus' truth to bind us.  
With his body he unites us all;  
dying our death, he restores our life;  
living with us now, he makes us one.

May we be one,  
sharing life together  
with the Father and his only Son.  
Now we have life in this world of  
death;  
heaven has begun, he makes us  
one.  
Heaven has begun, he makes us  
one.

Robin Mann 1949- (1981)  
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Number 81475

## Conclusion

*If you chose to light a candle, take a moment to blow out the candle.*

## TOGETHER @ ST MARKS

EMAIL MONDAY DEVOTION 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020

*"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you." Philippians 1:3-4*

Much to be thankful for:

- Schools are welcoming back students
- Restrictions from Covid 19 pandemic are being lifted in Australia.
- St Mark's Caloundra is planning to return to our public space for worship within government, church, health and hygiene guidelines and controls from Sunday 24 June 2020 with a monthly service
- Add your list.....

I love how the Apostle Paul begins his letter to the congregation he started in the city of Philippi. Significantly, Paul wrote this letter from prison, and there is little doubt he was greatly encouraged in his struggles by remembering and voicing his gratitude for all the blessings he had received in and through this church.

Recent research has testified to the power of gratitude. From strengthening our immune systems and helping us sleep better to creating more energy and providing a greater sense of connection, gratitude has been linked to an incredible number of positive outcomes. Research suggests two reasons for this.

First, during periods of hardship, it's easy to think there is no other reality than the difficult one we are experiencing in the moment. Articulating our gratitude helps us put present challenges in a broader context and avoid a negative "tunnel vision."

Second, voicing our gratitude connects us powerfully with others, reminding us that we are not alone but joined deeply and meaningfully to others.

We are at a fragile time in our struggle against the coronavirus, as we move from the crisis-response of the first few weeks to recognizing that we are in this for the long-haul.

Even as we move to returning to more normal life, we are also realizing that the new normal will be quite different from what we experienced even a few short months ago.

As we plan our return to our public worship space, it will be different – attendance numbers, physical distancing, time of worship, number of shorter services, location, Holy Communion with individual cups, no morning tea and many other changes.

It is at just this point that we may lose confidence or be tempted to despair.

One way to bolster our spirits and renew our sense of hope is by naming our gratitude, counting our blessings, and remembering all that is good in life.

So what can you give thanks for today?

And whom can you thank?

Whether by text, phone call, email, or letter, you have an opportunity to name your blessings, be renewed in confidence, and bolster the spirits of another.

As you do so, know that I, like Paul, “thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you!”

Pastor Ray

## **Daily Bible Readings**

### **Monday (25<sup>th</sup> May 2020)**

1Thessalonians 2:1-12

### **Tuesday**

1Thessalonians 2:13-20

### **Wednesday**

1Thessalonians 3:1-13

### **Thursday**

1Thessalonians 4:1-12

### **Friday**

1Thessalonians 4:13-18

### **Saturday**

Psalm 104:24-35

## **Copy of email 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 TOGETHER @ ST MARKS**

Hello everyone

At St Marks we continue to provide resources to nurture your faith journey in this difficult health, economic, social, mental and spiritual time.

We are pleased to offer you the opportunity to worship at a time that works for you or gather with family or some friends and follow our worship service this week.

You may join in at the YouTube link as we celebrate Ascension Sunday:

<https://youtu.be/ILbxeiLrcX8>

## KIDS CHURCH @ HOME

But wait there's more. We are even more delighted to invite the St Mark's young people and their friends to have their own worship [St Mark's Kids Church @ Home](#) at the following YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/5UfUiRtPLwk>

We ask that the parents and caregivers guide and monitor (and join in) with the kids in their special worship time.

You're welcome to share with neighbours and friends. Children's bulletin is attached.

## PRAYERS

Thank you for your prayers for each other, your families, the church and the world. Some specific prayers are included in the on line service order. We include Tracie and Lance Bucknall, family and friends who grieve the death of Lance's father, Milt. The funeral is this Friday 22 May (restricted attendance). God comfort this family in their time of grief.

## ROAD MAP

The Deacons and myself are thankful that we will follow government, health and church officials advice and are planning to return to our public worship space [at 14 Bombala Tce](#) commencing monthly on [Sunday 21 June and 19 July and 16 August](#). (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month and then reviewed).

- Current online worship YouTube, Kids @ Home, Facebook, Webpage, Monday Devotion, Mid-week Musical Devotion and printed service orders will continue until further notice
- Members encouraged to meet with friends in their homes and worship Together @ St Marks – according to government number guidelines
- We will work on offering 4 worship opportunities on each of the above Sundays – 8.30am, 9.30am, 10.30am and 11.30am (half an hour worship)
- Numbers will be restricted to 16 worshippers and Pastor
- Holy Communion only with bread and individual cups supervised by Pastor
- Singing will be recorded music
- Appropriate cleaning between each service

- A booking arrangement will be put in place – booking will be essential
- A register of all attendance is required and agreement to guidelines
- Retiring offering

Much planning is required and we have consensus that we need to be cautious and careful to work within our resources and abilities.

More information will be shared in the coming days regarding booking arrangements.

Our return to the worship location at Pacific Lutheran College will continue to be monitored by College and Church leadership.

We are thankful that the health response in Australia has allowed this easing of restrictions and return in a safe way to our public worship space at Bombala Tce.

## **GIVING**

St Mark's ministries continue even during these uncertain times, and we know you want to be part of making a difference, perhaps most especially during these times. We are built on a foundation of faith to see us through this time and ground us in hope for the next 100 years. Would you please consider making an offering or gift to support St Marks. Thank you!

### Ways to Give:

1. Member banks with another bank – transfer to St Marks LLL  
BSB 704942 AC 54740
2. Member banks with LLL – transfer to St Marks LLL  
BSB 704942 AC 100378501
3. Continue with account details for St Marks @ Pacific
4. Post to PO Box 874, Caloundra Qld 4551
5. Contact Pastor Ray to visit and collect offering envelopes

Pastor Ray