

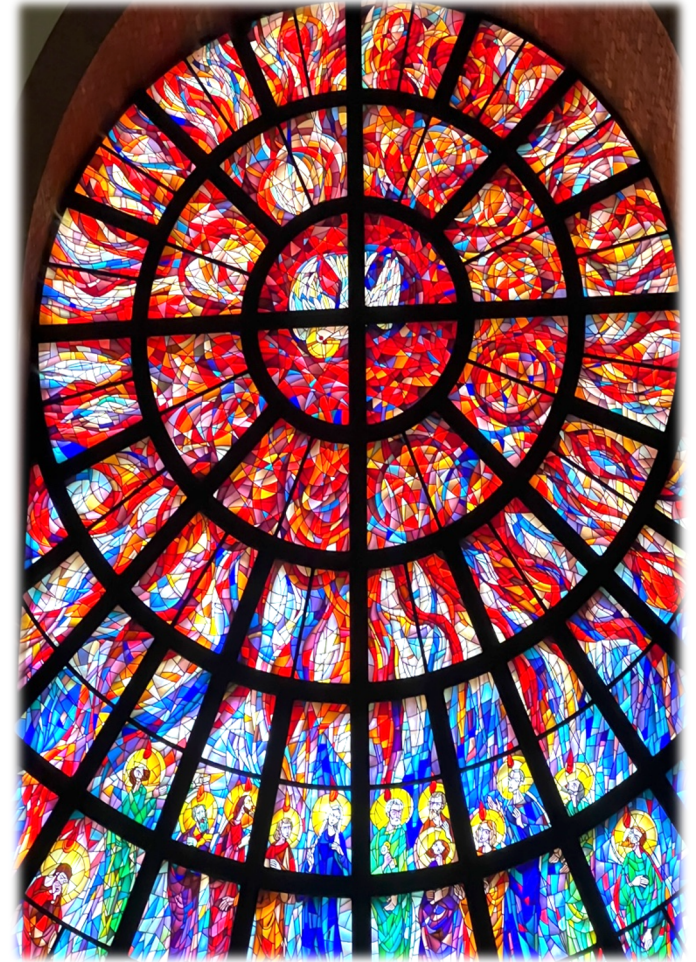
Hymn

Spirit of holiness,
wisdom and faithfulness,
Wind of the Lord, blowing strongly and free:
Strength of our serving
and joy of our worshipping –
Spirit of God, bring Your fullness to me!

You came with Your gifts
to supply all our poverty,
Pouring Your love on the church in her need;
You came with Your fruit
for our growth to maturity,
Richly refreshing the souls that You feed.
Christopher Idle

Blessing

May the Holy Spirit guide us into all truth.
Amen.



The Holy Spirit

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Introductory sentence

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."

Acts 2:17-18

Prayer

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.

Bible Reading

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4

Reflections

The reading from Acts 2 v. 17 & 18 originates from the Old Testament book of Joel, chapter 2 v.28-32. He was a prophet, the son of Pethuel. He spoke of a new age when God would send His Spirit upon all people. I marvel that centuries before the Holy Spirit came, this was always part

of God's plan and God kept His promise. Still today God fills those who love Him (both men and women) with His Holy Spirit.

Hymn

Fire of God, titanic Spirit,
Burn within our hearts today;
Cleanse our sin – may we exhibit
Holiness in every way:
Purge the squalidness that shames us,
Soils the body, taints the soul;
And, through Jesus Christ who claims us,
Purify us, make us whole.

Wind of God, dynamic Spirit,
Breathe upon our hearts today;
That we may Your power inherit
Hear us, Spirit, as we pray.
Fill the vacuum that enslaves us –
Emptiness of heart and soul;
And, through Jesus Christ who saves us,
Give us life and make us whole.

Voice of God, prophetic Spirit,
speak to every heart today
To encourage or prohibit,
Urging action or delay:
Clear the vagueness which impedes us –
Come, enlighten mind and soul;
And, through Jesus Christ who leads us,
Teach the truth that makes us whole.

Michael Seward

Prayer

Holy Spirit give us faith,
Holy Spirit give us hope,
Holy Spirit give us love.
Revive your work in this land beginning with me.
Amen.

Reading

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5:22-26

Reflection

God has given us His Spirit to guide us, help us, comfort us. Not one person who turns to Christ has ever been turned away, and that is true for the whole of history. It is also true for the future and for the present. We have never been promised an easy life, but we have been promised His presence always with us. All God's promises are "Yes and Amen."