

Readings for Whitsunday (Pentecost) 2021

Introit

Psalm 68:1, 4a, c, 11a, 33b, 35a; antiphon: Liturgical Text; Psalm 68:3

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world. Alle- | luia.*

The righteous | shall be glad.

They shall exult be- | fore God;*

they shall be jubilant with joy! Alle- | luia.

God shall arise, his enemies shall be | scattered;*

and those who hate him shall flee be- | fore him!

Sing to God, sing praises | to his name;*

exult be- | fore him!

The Lord | gives the word;*

behold, he sends out his voice, his | mighty voice.

Awesome is God from his sanctu- | ary;*

the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his | people.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world. Alle- | luia.*

The righteous | shall be glad.

They shall exult be- | fore God;*

they shall be jubilant with joy! Alle- | luia.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 11:1–9

The Tower of Babel

¹Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ²And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

³And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” ⁵And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. ⁶And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let

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us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Psalm

Psalm 143; antiphon: v. 11

My Soul Thirsts for You

¹Hear my prayer, O LORD;

give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*

In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

²Enter not into judgment with your | servant,*

for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

³For the enemy has pursued my soul;

he has crushed my life | to the ground;*

he has made me sit in darkness like | those long dead.

⁴Therefore my spirit faints with- | in me;*

my heart within me | is appalled.

⁵I remember the days of old;

I meditate on all that | you have done;*

I ponder the work | of your hands.

⁶I stretch out my | hands to you;*

my soul thirsts for you like a | parched land.

⁷Answer me quickly, O LORD!

My | spirit fails!*

Hide not your face from me,

lest I be like those who go down | to the pit.

⁸Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,

for in | you I trust.*

Make me know the way I should go,

for to you I lift | up my soul.

⁹Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*

I have fled to you for | refuge!

¹⁰Teach me to do your will,

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for you | are my God!*

Let your good Spirit lead me

on | level ground!

¹¹For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*

In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

¹²And in your steadfast love you will cut off my | enemies,*

and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,

for I am your | servant.

Second Reading

Acts 2:1–21

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

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¹⁷“And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,

before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

²¹And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the
Lord shall be saved.”

Holy Gospel

John 14:23–31

²³Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my
Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you
hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper,
the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all
things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave
with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not
your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I
am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced,
because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I
have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may
believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming.
He has no claim on me, ³¹but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the
world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.”

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Acknowledgments

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