

READINGS

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:25-35, 37*b*

Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27, 16:4*b*-15

OPENING PRAYER

Send down upon your people, O God,
the enlivening flame of your Holy Spirit.
Lend fire to our words
and strength to our witness.
Send us forth to proclaim with boldness
your wondrous works;
for we ask it in the name
of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ—
risen, ascended and glorified—
who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Giver of life,
receive all we offer you this day.
Let the Spirit you bestow on your Church
continue to shine in the world
through the hearts of all who believe.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God of fire and of breath,
may we who have been blessed by word and sacrament
live in the unity of your Holy Spirit,
and shine as light in the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel.

The hand of God was upon me, and carried me away by the spirit and set me down in the middle of a valley—a valley full of bones. I was led up and down among them; and there was a vast number of them lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

God said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O God, only you know that." Then God said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: 'O dry bones, hear the word of God. Thus says your God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am your God.'"

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Then God said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: 'Thus says your God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.'" I prophesied as God commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then God said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, 'Thus says your God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am your God, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place

you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, your God, have spoken and will make all this happen," says our God.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104:25-35, 37B

O God, how many and diverse are your works!

**In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number,
creatures both small and great.

**There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan,
which you have made for the sport of it.**

All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.

**You give it to them, they gather it;
you open your hand,
and they are filled with good things.**

You hide your face, and they are terrified;
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.

**You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.**

Glory to our God forever!

May you rejoice in all your creation!

**You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.**

I will sing to you as long as I live;

I will praise you as long as I have my being.

**May these words of mine please you;
I will always rejoice in you.**

Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Acts 2:1-21

A Reading from the Book of Acts

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, a tongue coming to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem, and at this sound they all gathered and were bewildered, because they heard them speaking in their own native languages. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language— Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them telling of God's deeds of power."

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But some sneered and said, "They are drunk with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Judeans and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning! No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming
of God's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of our God
shall be saved."

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

*The Holy Gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.*

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

God be with you.

And also with you.

*The Good News
of Jesus Christ
according to John.*

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "When the Advocate comes, the Spirit of Truth who will be sent to you from the Father—whom I myself will send from the Father—this Advocate will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. Now I am going to the One who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send the Advocate to you who, coming into your midst, will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of Truth comes, you will be guided into all truth; for the Spirit will not speak of its own accord, but will speak what is heard, and will declare to you the things that are to come. This will glorify me, because what is mine will be taken and revealed to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that what is mine will be taken and revealed to you."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.