

The Ever Present Spirit

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13; John 20: 19-23

The three readings this week speak to us of the ever present Spirit in the conception of the Church, the animation of God's holy people and in the Divine Breath of forgiveness.

We can see in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the strong driving wind that swept in over the gathered community is the same wind that swept over the chaos at the time of creation, bringing order to the world. The Holy Spirit now brings order to the universal message of Jesus' saving love. The Spirit provides the change needed for the apostles to proclaim the message of Christ.

The second reading from St. Paul provides us with the understanding that faith in Christ is only possible through the working of the Holy Spirit. **"No one can say, "Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit."** It is the Spirit that animates each one of us to service with our different but unifying gifts. It is the Spirit that makes us one body in Christ.

In the gospel today, Jesus appears to the disciples who are locked in fear. He stands in the midst of them proclaiming peace. Jesus breathes on them with the same Divine breath that brought forth life to Adam. He breathes into them the Holy Spirit that allows for the forgiveness of sin, a necessary action of every disciple in response to being a member of the Church and of Christ's body.

At our baptism, we received this same Holy Spirit. We are to be a people of change. We are to bring forth the message of Christ to others. We have no other options. We are commissioned to be God's holy instruments of change, unity and forgiveness, bearing witness to Jesus Christ in all we do and say.

This great feast of Pentecost is a day of renewal. It is a day set to remind us of the ever present Spirit that propels us outward on our commission to proclaim what God has done for us. We are therefore called to utilize our gifts in service to others, unifying our families, communities, parishes and the world with the peace and forgiveness offered freely to us by Jesus this week.

Blessings!



Sue Schettler