

## Children's liturgy – Pentecost (Year A)

### Preparation of the worship space

Colour: Red

**Song suggestions:** Shine Jesus shine (388, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)  
Spirit of the Living God (666, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

**Welcome:** Today we hear how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples, to help them be brave enough to share God's message with others. Let's think a bit about what the Holy Spirit does in our lives today.

**Opening prayer:** God of all, you sent your Spirit to be with the disciples, filling them with joy, peace and courage. May we also be filled with your Spirit, be brave and share your peace in our world. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Acts 2:1-11

**Psalm:** Psalm 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34. R. Cf. v.30

**Gospel acclamation:** *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

**Gospel:** John 20:19-23

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below\*)*

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from today's reading?

The disciples were alone and afraid, because their friend Jesus, who they knew was the Son of God, had been put to death.

Suddenly Jesus appeared to them. What did Jesus say to the disciples? (*Peace be with you*)

And how did the disciples feel when they saw Jesus again?

The disciples were filled with joy. Jesus repeated the words "Peace be with you."

What happened next? Jesus breathed on the disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit. He told the disciples he was sending them out to spread his word.

The disciples had been sad, lonely and frightened. How do you think they felt after Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit onto them?

The disciples were filled with joy, hope and courage to go out and spread the word of God. God's special message of peace for all people.

The Holy Spirit gives the disciples the courage to see that they can do what Jesus asks of them.

What does Jesus ask us to do? How does Jesus want us to behave and to treat other people?

Jesus asks us to do the same as the disciples – to spread his message of love and peace to all people through what we do.

Can you think how you might do this? And how does the Holy Spirit help us?

The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to answer Jesus' call, to do what God asks of us even when it is difficult. We each answer that call in a different way, but the Holy Spirit helps and guides us along the way.

This week let's try to notice the Holy Spirit in our lives, helping us to be brave, and helping us to spread Jesus' message of peace in our world.

What will you do this week to try and spread peace in our world?

**Intercessions:** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We pray to God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

We pray for all those who work for peace in our world: that they will have courage and strength to carry on, even in the most difficult times. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people and especially those who have lived through war and conflict: that, filled by the power of the Holy Spirit, they can find it in their hearts to move forwards in peace and forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be inspired by the Holy Spirit to spread Christ's message of peace in all that we do. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** God of mercy, fill us with your Spirit and guide us as we try to share your peace in our world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

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For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see [cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy)

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Invite the children to share what they can see in the accompanying illustration that makes them think about making peace. (*Playing together happily, forgiving each other, helping friends to make up when they have argued.*) Explain how a dove rested on Jesus when he was baptised to show that the Holy Spirit was with him. The Holy Spirit is with us too, to help us build peace and to act as God wants us to. The dove can remind us to let the Holy Spirit build peace through us.

Encourage the children to colour in the illustration and on the back to write or draw how they will spread Jesus' message of peace with others in the coming week.

Invite the children to write a prayer for peace in our world.

Remind the children to share with their grown ups all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today. If your children have written a prayer for peace, ask them to say it together at home during the week. Encourage them to try to do at least one thing in the coming week to spread Jesus' message of peace in our world.

**See [cafod.org.uk/familyprayers](http://cafod.org.uk/familyprayers) for more child-friendly Pentecost activities.**

**\*Gospel passage taken from:**

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