

✠ VIGIL OF ✠ PENTECOST



Please leave these booklets in church.



Please leave these booklets in church.

Pentecost, with Easter, is one of the greatest feasts of the liturgical year, commemorating the coming of the Holy Ghost. Like Easter, Pentecost is prepared with a special Vigil. As one of the two baptismal days of the ancient Church, Pentecost Eve also includes a blessing of the font. In English, Pentecost is also known as "Whitsun," because of the white baptismal robes worn by the newly baptized Christians. Unlike on Holy Saturday, the new fire is not blessed and so the ceremony begins directly with the reading of:

The Prophecies

First Prophecy. *Genesis 22:1-19.* And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them

the memory, first of the glorious Mary, ever a Virgin, Mother of our God and Lord Jesus Christ ...

And likewise the Hanc igitur:

We therefore beseech thee, O Lord, to be appeased and accept this oblation of our service, as also of thy whole family; which we make unto thee on behalf of these also whom thou hast vouchsafed to bring to a new birth by water and the Holy Ghost, giving them remission of all their sins; dispose our days ...

The AGNUS DEI is said as usual, and at Solemn Mass the clergy exchange the peace.

Communion Anthem. *St. John 7:37-39.* In the last day of the feast Jesus cried: He that believeth on me, out of his body shall flow rivers of living water: but this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive, alleluia, alleluia.

Postcommunion. *The Lord be with you, etc.* We humbly beseech thee, O Lord, that thou wouldst send down upon our hearts the healthful Spirit of thy grace: and, that we may bring forth fruit unto thee, pour upon us the inward dew of his blessing. Through our Lord, etc.



comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Offertory Anthem. *Psalm 103:31-32.* Send forth thy spirit, and they shall be created; and thou shalt renew the face of the earth: may the glorious majesty of the Lord endure forever, alleluia.

Secret. O Lord, we beseech Thee, sanctify the gifts which we offer and mercifully cleanse our hearts with the light of Thy Holy Spirit. Through our Lord, etc.

The Preface of Pentecost. ... *world without end*, etc. It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord holy Father almighty, everlasting God: through Christ our Lord: Who, ascending over all the heavens and sitting on thy right hand, as at this time and according to his Word, didst send down the Holy Ghost upon the children of his adoption. Wherefore all peoples upon all the earth rejoice with exceeding great joy: the heavenly virtues and the angelic powers likewise do sing a hymn to thy glory and unceasingly cry out, saying: Holy, holy, holy ...

In the CANON OF THE MASS there is a special form of the Communicantes, which begins as follows:

Praying in union with and keeping the most holy day of the Pentecost, whereon the Holy Ghost appeared to the Apostles in countless tongues; and also venerating

together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen. And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

Collect. *Let us pray.* O God, who in the works of Abraham thy servant hast sanctified a pattern of obedience to all mankind: grant us so to conquer the perversity of our desires, that we may in all

things fulfill the righteousness of thy commandments. Through our Lord, etc.

Second Prophecy. *Exodus 14:24-15:1.* And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, and took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fighteth for them against the Egyptians. And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses. Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying:

Tract. *Exodus 15:1-2.* I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea: he is my strength, and he

Epistle. *Acts 19:1-8.* In those days, it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, he said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve. And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

ALLELUIA. *Psalms 106.* O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Tract. *Psalms 116:1-2.* O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him, all ye peoples. For his merciful kindness is established upon us; and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever.

Holy Gospel. *St. John 14:15-21.* At that time, Jesus spake unto his disciples: If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you

made in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

If there be any candidates for baptism, the sacrament is now conferred. As the procession returns to the altar, the LITANY OF THE SAINTS is sung. Each invocation is sung in full by the cantors and then repeated by the choir and people. Upon returning to the altar, the ministers lie prostrate briefly upon the steps before going to the sacristy to vest in red for Mass. The clergy return to the altar as the KYRIE is sung.



Holy Mass

There is no Introit today, except at Low Masses. At the GLORIA, the bells are rung, as at the Easter Vigil.

Collect. *The Lord be with you, etc.* Grant, we beseech thee, O Almighty God, that the splendour of thy glory may in such wise shine forth upon us: that the brightness of thy light may by the illumination of thy Holy Spirit, strengthen the hearts of them which through thy grace are born again. Through Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Through our Lord, etc.

is become my salvation. He is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name.

Collect. *Let us pray.* O God, who by the light of the New Testament hast expounded the miracles wrought in ages past, so that the Red Sea might be an image of the sacred font, and the race delivered from the bondage of Egypt should prefigure the Sacraments of the Christian people: grant that all nations who have obtained by the merit of faith the privilege of Israel may be born anew by partaking of thy Spirit. Through our Lord, etc.

Third Prophecy. *Deuteronomy 31:22-30.* In those days, Moses wrote a song, and taught it the children of Israel. And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swear unto them: and I will be with thee. And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying, Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee. For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the Lord; and how much more after my death? Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them. For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside

from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands. And Moses spake in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended.

Tract. *Deuteronomy 32:1-4.* Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak: and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. My doctrine shall drop as the rain: my speech shall distil as the dew. As the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: because I will call upon the Name of the Lord. Ascribe ye greatness unto our God: he is the rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are judgment. A God of truth and without iniquity: just and holy is the Lord.

Collect. *Let us pray.* O God, the glory of the faithful and the life of the just, who by Moses thy servant didst teach us to sing sacred hymns, accomplish the work of thy mercy among all nations by granting them happiness and dispelling their terror, that the punishment with which they were threatened may become a remedy unto everlasting salvation. Through our Lord, etc.

Fourth Prophecy. *Isaias 4:1-6.* And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach. In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even

The Paschal Candle is now removed from the water.

Here may the stains of all sins be washed out: here may human nature, created to thy image, and reformed to the honour of its author, be cleansed from all the filth of the old man: that all who receive this sacrament of regeneration may be born again new children of true innocence.

The last part is said in the tone of a lesson:

Through our Lord Jesus Christ thy Son: who shall come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire. *Amen.*

The people are sprinkled with the newly blessed water, then the priest continues with the confection of the baptismal water by infusing the holy oils. Pouring in some oil of the catechumens in the form of a cross, he says:

May this font be sanctified and made fruitful by the oil of salvation, for such as are born anew therein unto life everlasting. *Amen.*

In the same manner, pouring in chrism, he says:

May this infusion of the Chrism of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Ghost the Comforter, be made in the name of the Holy Trinity. *Amen.*

Pouring in the oil and chrism together into the water in the form of a cross, he says:

May this mixture of the Chrism of sanctification, and of the Oil of unction, and of the water of baptism, be

thee out of a rock to quench the thirsty people. I bless ✠ thee also by our Lord Jesus Christ, His only Son: Who in Cana of Galilee changed thee into wine by a wonderful miracle of His power. Who walked upon thee with dry foot, and was baptized in thee by John in the Jordan. Who made thee flow out of His side together with His Blood, and commanded His disciples that such as believed should be baptised in thee, saying: Go, teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Changing his voice to the tone of a lesson, he continues:

Do thou, almighty God, mercifully assist us who observe this command: do thou graciously breathe upon us.

Breathing thrice upon the water in the form of a cross, he says:

Do thou with thy mouth bless these pure waters: that besides their natural virtue of cleansing the body, they may also be effectual for the purifying of the soul.

Thrice he lets down the Paschal Candle into the water, each time deeper, saying in the tone of a Preface on a higher note each time:

May the virtue of the Holy Ghost descend into all the water of this font.

The priest here breathes thrice upon the water in the form of the Greek letter Ψ and then continues:

And make the whole substance of this water fruitful, unto regeneration.

every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

Tract. *Isaias 5:1-2.* My well-beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill. And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof: and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it. And also made a winepress therein: for the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel.

Collect. *Let us pray.* O almighty and everlasting God, who through thine only Son hast shewn thyself the husbandman of thy Church, by mercifully cultivating every branch bearing fruit in the same thy Christ, who is the true vine, that it may bring forth more abundant fruit: grant that the thorns of sin may not prevail against thy faithful people, whom like a vine thou didst bring out of Egypt through the font of Baptism, so that assisted by thy sanctifying Spirit they may ever abound in new fruit. Through the same Lord, etc.

Fifth Prophecy. *Baruch 3:9-38.* Hear, O Israel, the commandments of life: give ear to understand wisdom. How happeneth it Israel, that thou art in thine enemies' land, that thou art waxen old in a

strange country, that thou art defiled with the dead, that thou art counted with them that go down into the grave? Thou hast forsaken the fountain of wisdom. For if thou hadst walked in the way of God, thou shouldest have dwelled in peace for ever. Learn where is wisdom, where is strength, where is understanding; that thou mayest know also where is length of days, and life, where is the light of the eyes, and peace. Who hath found out her place? or who hath come into her treasures? Where are the princes of the heathen become, and such as ruled the beasts upon the earth; they that had their pastime with the fowls of the air, and they that hoarded up silver and gold, wherein men trust, and made no end of their getting? For they that wrought in silver, and were so careful, and whose works are unsearchable, They are vanished and gone down to the grave, and others are come up in their steads. Young men have seen light, and dwelt upon the earth: but the way of knowledge have they not known, nor understood the paths thereof, nor laid hold of it: their children were far off from that way. It hath not been heard of in Chanaan, neither hath it been seen in Theman. The Agarenes that seek wisdom upon earth, the merchants of Meran and of Theman, the authors of fables, and searchers out of understanding; none of these have known the way of wisdom, or remember her paths. O Israel, how great is the house of God! and how large is the place of his possession! Great, and hath none end; high, and unmeasurable. There were the giants famous from the beginning, that were of so great stature, and so expert in war. Those did not the Lord choose, neither gave he the way of knowledge unto them: but they were destroyed, because they had no wisdom, and perished through their own foolishness. Who hath gone up into

in time, be brought forth to the same infancy by grace, their mother.

Exorcisms. Therefore may all unclean spirits, by Thy command, O Lord, depart far from hence: may the whole malice of diabolical deceit be entirely banished: may no power of the enemy prevail here: let him not fly about to lay his snares; may he not creep in by stealth: may he not corrupt with his poison.

He touches the water with his hand.

May this holy and innocent creature be free from all the assaults of the enemy, and purified by the destruction of all his wickedness. May it be a living fountain, a regenerating water, a purifying stream: that all those that are to be washed in this saving bath may obtain, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, the grace of a perfect cleansing.

He makes the sign of the cross over the font.

Blessings. Therefore, I bless thee, O creature of water, by the living ✠ God, by the true ✠ God, by the holy ✠ God: by that God Who, in the beginning, separated thee by His Word from the dry land, Whose Spirit moved over thee.

He divides the water with his hand, and sprinkling some towards the four quarters of the compass, says:

Who made thee flow from the fountain of paradise and commanded thee to water the whole earth with thy four rivers. Who, changing thy bitterness in the desert into sweetness made thee fit to drink, and produced

of us thy servants, may be fulfilled by the effect of thy power. Through our Lord, etc.

Preface. ... *world without end*, etc. It is meet and just, right and availing unto salvation, to give Thee thanks always and in all places, O holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, Who, by Thine ineffable power dost wonderfully produce the effect of Thy Sacraments: and though we are unworthy to perform such great mysteries: yet, as Thou dost not abandon the gifts of Thy grace, so Thou inclinest the ears of Thy goodness, even to our prayers. O God, Whose Spirit in the very beginning of the world moved over the waters, that even then the nature of water might receive the virtue of sanctification. O God, Who by water didst wash away the crimes of the guilty world, and by the pouring out of the deluge didst give a figure of regeneration, that one and the same element might in a mystery be the end of vice and the beginning of virtue. Look, O Lord, on the face of Thy Church, and multiply in her Thy regenerations, who by the streams of Thine abundant grace fillest Thy city with joy, and openest the font of Baptism all over the world for the renewal of the Gentiles: that by the command of Thy Majesty she may receive the grace of Thine only Son from the Holy Ghost.

Here the priest divides the water in the form of a cross.

May He by a secret mixture of His divine virtue render this water fruitful for the regeneration of men, to the end that a heavenly offspring, conceived by sanctification, may emerge from the immaculate womb of this divine font, reborn a new creature: and may all, however distinguished either by sex in body, or by age

heaven, and taken her, and brought her down from the clouds? Who hath gone over the sea, and found her, and will bring her for pure gold? No man knoweth her way, nor thinketh of her path. But he that knoweth all things knoweth her, and hath found her out with his understanding: he that prepared the earth for evermore hath filled it with fourfooted beasts: he that sendeth forth light, and it goeth, calleth it again, and it obeyeth him with fear. The stars shined in their watches, and rejoiced: when he calleth them, they say, Here we be; and so with cheerfulness they shewed light unto him that made them. This is our God, and there shall none other be accounted of in comparison of him. He hath found out all the way of knowledge, and hath given it unto Jacob his servant, and to Israel his beloved. Afterward did he shew himself upon earth, and conversed with men.

Collect. *Let us pray.* O God, who by the mouth of the prophets hast commanded us to forsake the things of this world and to press on to those that are eternal, grant unto us thy servants that, as we know thy precepts, so we may be able through thy heavenly inspiration to fulfill them. Through our Lord, etc.

Sixth Prophecy. *Ezekiel 37:1-14.* The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus

saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, and shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord almighty.

Collect. *Let us pray.* O Lord, God of hosts, who dost restore what is fallen, and preserve what thou hast restored: increase the number of those who are to receive new life in thy holy Name, that all who are

washed in holy Baptism may ever be governed by thine inspiration. Through our Lord, etc.

Blessing of the Font

Led by the Paschal Candle, which has been removed since the Ascension but returns today, the procession goes to the font as the choir sings:

Tract. *Psalm 41.* Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the strong, living God: when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

*Before the priest enters the baptistery,
the following prayer is said:*

Collect. *The Lord be with you, etc. Let us pray.* Grant, we beseech thee, O Almighty God: that we which here observe the day whereon thou didst send forth thy Holy Spirit, may in such wise be influenced with heavenly desires that we may ever thirst for the waters of life. Through our Lord, etc.

*When the priest enters the baptistery, the blessing is performed
as follows:*

Collect. *The Lord be with you, etc. Let us pray.* Almighty and eternal God, be present at these mysteries of thy great goodness, be present at these sacraments, and send forth the spirit of adoption to regenerate the new people, whom the font of baptism bringeth forth: that, what is to be done by the ministry