

# PENTECOST SUNDAY

Year A

Reading 1

*Citation:* Acts: Chap. 2, verses 1-11  
Acts 2:1-11

In the first half of the passage put yourself in the room. What's going on? It's amazing! Your senses are heightened – you see and hear every little thing. What's it like to see a tongue of fire on somebody yet it doesn't burn them? What about hearing people you know well each speaking a different language? Let this amazement come through! Then, in the second half, the tone changes as you tell the story of the Apostles' first experience preaching to their fellow Jews. You're the Jewish observer telling the reporter what happened – what you saw and experienced. You're excited, amazed, dumbfounded!

## A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,  
they were all in one place together.

(short Pause)

And suddenly  
there came from the sky  
a noise  
like a strong driving wind,  
and it filled the entire house in which they were.

[surprise!]

(short Pause)

[fearful surprise?]

(drag out “driving” and “wind” [what’s wind sound like?])

(short Pause)

Then  
there appeared to them  
tongues  
as of fire,  
which parted  
and came to rest on each of them.

[expectant surprise!]

(drag out “fire”?)

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit  
and began to speak in different tongues,  
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

(joy! auspicious!) (very short pause)

(amazing!)

(almost parenthetical)

Now  
there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven  
staying in Jerusalem.

(change tone – you’re explaining the circumstances)

(very short pause)

At this sound,  
they gathered in a large crowd,  
but they were confused  
because each one heard them  
speaking in his own language.

(more surprise!)

{Amazement  
{ builds!

They were astounded,  
and in amazement they asked,  
“Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?  
Then how does each of us  
hear them in his native language?

[ let your voice reflect the amazement  
[ and the wonder of it all!] (short Pause)

[ Keep the  
[ amazement

[ in your voice] (short Pause)

**Proclaim the Word!**

**Proclamation Format**

We are Parthian, Medes, and Elamites,  
inhabitants of Mesopotamia,  
Judea and Cappadocia,  
Pontus and Asia,  
Phrygia and Pamphylia,  
Egypt  
and the districts of Libya near Cyrene,  
as well as travelers from Rome,  
both Jews and converts to Judaism,  
Cretans and Arabs,  
yet  
we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”

**The Word of the Lord.**

[  
[  
[  
[  
[  
[  
[  
[  
[  
[

**A long list; vary tone, pace  
and facial expression  
but keeping an element  
of surprise and amazement**

**(short Pause)  
(very short Pause)  
(strong finish!)**

# PENTECOST SUNDAY

## Year A

Paul's attempting to define the influence of the Holy Spirit while, at the same time, preserving the concept of the Trinity. He is appealing to our faith, not our reason. Take your time, particularly with the sentences we refer to as a "List". You must be as insistent as Paul is that your listeners see and understand the differences. End on a very strong note.

Reading 2

*Citation:* 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12, Verses 3b-7; 12-13  
1 Corinthians 12:3-b-7, 12-13

### A Reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

(get listeners' attention)

No one can say,

"Jesus is Lord,"

(insistent tone)

except by the Holy Spirit.

( "that's why" tone) (very short pause)

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts

[ A List!! – vary tone, pace, etc.]

but the same Spirit;

(stress each "same" identically)

there are different forms of service

but the same Lord;

there are different workings

but the same God

who produces all of them

in everyone.

(short pause)

To each individual

(a positive, assertive statement)

the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

(short pause)

As a body is one

though it has many parts,

(parenthetical)

and all the parts of the body,

though many,

(parenthetical)

are one body,

so also Christ.

(each word separately)

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,

whether Jews or Greeks,

(voice goes up)

slaves or free persons,

(voice goes down)

and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

### The Word of the Lord.

# PENTECOST SUNDAY

Year A

John is the storyteller recounting both the amazing revelation of Jesus' "different" way of being as well as the message of Jesus to the disciples – Be aware of your mission and its importance!). Jesus breathes on them and provides the Holy Spirit as the source of their responsibility to forgive sins or not. There is calmness, here, but just below the surface is the excitement and amazement of what the disciples experienced. Try to reflect both.

GOSPEL

*Citation:* John, Chap. 20, Verses 19-23  
John 20: 19-23

## A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

On the evening of that first day of the week,  
when the doors were locked where the disciples were,  
for fear of the Jews,  
Jesus came and stood in their midst  
and said to them,  
"Peace be with you."

(parenthetical)  
(very short pause)  
  
(gentle firmness)

When he had said this,  
he showed them his hands  
and his side.  
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

(very short pause)  
(amazed but happy! smile!)

Jesus said to them again,  
"Peace be with you.  
As the Father has sent me,  
so I send you."

(a mild stress)  
{  
{ gentle firmness  
{

And when he had said this,  
he breathed on them and said to them,  
"Receive the Holy Spirit.  
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,  
and whose sins you retain are retained."

(drag "breathed" out just a bit)  
(insist) (very short pause)  
(voice up then down  
( " " "

## The Gospel of the Lord.