

Whitsuntide - Come, Holy Spirit

Whitsuntide is the season celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit and the growth of the Church she founded. It begins on Whit Sunday - the modern habit of calling it 'Pentecost' is not only inaccurate, it feels to me to be insulting to those following the Jewish faith, to whom Pentecost originally belongs and who celebrate it on a different day in most years.

And anyway, Pentecostide sounds ridiculous.

Whitsuntide runs from Whit Sunday to 31 July, Lammas Eve. It therefore can contain as few as six, or as many as eleven weeks or parts of weeks.

The First Sunday after Whitsunday is traditionally called Trinity Sunday, and was especially valued in England because it was Thomas a Becket's favourite feast, and he was remembered by the common people for his championship of the poor and oppressed; I have provided it with its own sentence.

Sentences for Season

Sentence for Whitsunday

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Sentence for First Sunday after Whitsunday

Wisdom says, 'The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.'

Sentence for Other Days

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Creeds

Be my strong place, O High King of High Kings!

Be my strong shield, O Speaker of the Powerful Word!
Be my strong sword, O Fire of the Life-Breath!

I bind to me the power of fire,
that burns in the forest for destruction
that burns in the peat for cleansing
that burns in the camp for safety
that burns in the sword for slaughter
that burns in the house for welcome
that burns in the hearth for food
that burns in the soul for power
that burns in the spirit for light
that burns in God for glory

I sing the music of the waves
I sing the music of the ever-rolling waves
I sing the music of the trees
I sing the music of the dying and greening trees
I sing the music of the rocks
I sing the music of the jewel-hiding rocks
I sing the music of the spirit
I sing the music of the always-mighty Father, the life-owning Son,
the inward-glory Spirit
I sing the song of the Spirit, of the Son, of the Father
The song of the One.

Prayers for Weeks

Whitsunday

Spirit of the Word of the Father, burn in us; bring fire to our mouths
to shout new things; bring fire to our minds to learn new truth;
bring fire to our hearts to proclaim your power in the marketplace
of our lives. Amen

First Sunday after Whitsunday

One God, threefold and unique, help us to grasp the hope, proclaim the faith, and live the love that is wholly and truly God, unique and threefold, as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be. Amen

Second Sunday after Whitsunday

Prophetic Spirit, you spoke in the crowded streets to the strangers in Jerusalem and on the desert road to a stranger from Candace; open our ears to hear you everywhere we go, in the mouth of everyone we meet, even where we ourselves are strangers. Amen.

Third Sunday after Whitsunday

Jesus Christ, who is the true head of your church, may we lay aside our pride that blinds us to the work you are asking us to share in. May we celebrate what others achieve, value what others contribute, and support what others do in your name. Amen.

Fourth Sunday after Whitsunday

In a world that seems not to care about you and what you have done for us, Lord, help us to show we care about you and about all whom you love. Amen

Fifth Sunday after Whitsunday

O God, whose Wisdom shouts in the city gates and the ordinary streets, help us to proclaim your wisdom in the assemblies of the wise, and in the gatherings of the ordinary people, that your name may be proclaimed wherever people meet. Amen.

Sixth Sunday after Whitsunday

Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel and power, teach us to delight in the knowledge and fear of the Lord, so that we will not judge by what we see, or decide by what we hear, but judge the needy with righteousness, and justly decide for the poor of the earth. Amen.

Seventh Sunday after Whitsunday

God, whose Spirit moved on the face of Chaos, open our eyes to her as she moves over the face of our world, and help our hearts to move with her, wherever she leads us. Amen

Eighth Sunday after Whitsunday

Spirit of the great waters, who dances with leviathan,
Spirit of the little waters, who ripples the pool at Siloam,
Spirit of the hidden waters, who flows through the City of God,
give us the water of life to offer to a thirsty world. Amen

Ninth Sunday after Whitsunday

Unknown God, untamed Spirit, unconquered Dove, to you we lift an altar in our hearts, in the temple that you have hallowed, that we may sacrifice our pride, our fear and our self-doubt before the Great Assembly of the powers of heaven.

Tenth Sunday after Whitsunday

Creator Spirit, who brings life and power to all things, create in us a spirit of power that we may bring life to our souls and to the souls of all whom we meet. Amen

Eleventh Sunday after Whitsunday

Creator Spirit, whose glory renews the whole earth, so renew us that we may bring new bread to the hungry, new wine to the sorrowing and new life to the hopeless; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Days of the Week

Sunday

Spirit of God in the fire
In the fire of the hearth
In the fire of the kitchen
In the fire of the engine

In the fire of the kiln
In the fire of the artist
In the fire of the music
In the fire of the lover
Light your fire in me, Holy Spirit of God

Monday

Holy Spirit,
may I feel your gale, and run to where it blows;
may I see your flames, and fan where they burn;
may I hear your song, and sing it in the marketplace;
may I grasp your truth, and shout it in the darkness;
may I know your life, and bring it to birth in this world.

Tuesday

Refining fire of God, burn away the scale, the dross, the brushwood
in my life, that my eyes may see clearly what needs polishing,
reshaping, planting and pruning, and so my heart be fired to act on
what I see. In the name of Jesus Christ, who sent you to burn in me.

Wednesday

As the flame melts the steel, welding the ship;
As the flame boils the water, driving the engine;
As the flame churns the Sun, warming the Earth;
So the flame burns in my heart, remaking me.
And there is so much in me still to be remade;
Help me to turn to your warmth;
to act by your power;
to melt at your touch;
Help me to accept re-creation.

Thursday

Most Holy Spirit of love, speak to me in the words of a stranger
Most Holy Spirit of joy, speak to me in the din of a party

Most Holy Spirit of peace, speak to me in the quiet of a graveyard
Most Holy Spirit of patience, speak to me in the long night
Most Holy Spirit of kindness, speak to me in the needle marks of a
beggar
Most Holy Spirit of goodness, speak to me in the money dropped
into a tin
Most Holy Spirit of faithfulness, speak to me in the presence of
death
Most Holy Spirit of gentleness, speak to me in the honesty of a
friend
Most Holy Spirit of self-control, speak to me in my sins
Most Holy Spirit, speak to me as you choose to speak.
Amen

Friday

The power of God, Father Son and Spirit, be to me!
The power of the Father be to me!
The power of the rushing water be to me! The power of the blowing
wind be to me! The power of the shining sun be to me!
The power of the far-off stars be to me! The power of the distant
purpose be to me! The power of life and death be to me!
The power of the Son be to me!
The power of the guiding moon be to me! The power of the lathe
and hoe be to me! The power of holy birth be to me! The power of
broken bread be to me! The power of victorious death be to me!
The power of conquering love be to me!
The power of the strong Spirit be to me!
The power of the shoaling fish be to me! The power of the clouds of
midges be to me! The power of the living mind be to me!
The power of the harp and song be to me! The power of the dream
and the vision be to me! The power of the healer and the seer be to
me!
The power of God, Father Son and Spirit, be to me!

Saturday

As the wind blows from the sea, may I feel your breath blowing me along

As the fire burns under the pot, may I bring strength to those who need me

As the water streams down the mountain, may I clean and refresh all who touch me

As the earth yields fruits to all who gather them, may I yield fruit to all who wish to take

As the Spirit creates new life in me, may I bring new life to my neighbour

Close

Eternal God of Power, whose Spirit creates, empowers and fulfils your people and your whole world, give us the faith to accept that power in our own lives, that your love may speak through us to all your creation; through our Lord Jesus Christ whose Cross is victory and whose resurrection is glory; Amen.

Ending Sentence

I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!