

# Notes on Lectionary Readings - MAY 17-23, 2021.

## Come, Holy Spirit [Extract from Disciplines 2021: Upper Room]

SCRIPTURE OVERVIEW: This week's readings remind us of the powerful role of God's Spirit. For many Christians, the Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity we understand the least.

### Read Acts 2:1-21.

**Situation** - the Spirit empowers the apostles on Pentecost to speak in other languages and, in so doing, initiates the establishment and missional reach of the church to the wider world.

**Questions** - How often do you take solace in praying in private? Or are you more inclined to move to take action in the public square without praying first? Which site is the more comfortable for you?

**Prayer** - Come Holy Spirit illuminate our minds with the light of faith. Draw us past complexity so that we are led to ponder our personal calling and rekindled by Your love. Amen.

### Read Psalm 104:24-34, 35b.

Theme - a word play on ruach the Hebrew word for breath or spirit, to teach us that God's spirit was present at creation and is necessary for the ongoing survival of all life.

**Questions** - Where have you seen evidence of nature's resources being spent? How can you help?

**Prayer** - Come Holy Spirit and form us into the people of God we are meant to be. Discard our old unfruitful selves. Let us not die and return to dust before we have been transformed by you. Amen.

### Read Romans 8:22-27.

**Situation** - Paul writes that God's Spirit confirms that we are children of God and can approach God with confidence, not fear.

**Questions** - How consequential is it to you to acknowledge that God prays for us and the world? Why?

**Prayer** - Come Holy Spirit and remove whatever obstacles prevent us from hearing and heeding your call to be wholly. Teach us to say with Jesus, Yes Father your will not mine be done. Amen.

### Read John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

**Situation** - Even the disciples feel uncertain about what will happen when Jesus leaves, so John provides Jesus' assurance that God will remain with them and with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

**Questions** - What instructions do you wish Jesus had left for you?

**Prayer** - Come Holy Spirit and radiate through our finitude the infinite goodness and mercy of God. Teach us to see in every obstacle a formation opportunity. Lead us to eternal peace and joy in oneness with the trinity. Amen.