

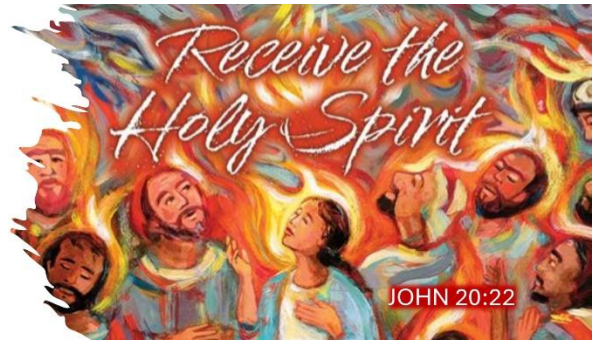
May 24th, 2026 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Day of Pentecost

Fifty days after Passover, Jews kept the Pentecost festival, which originally celebrated the wheat harvest but had become the commemoration of the giving of the law on Mount Sinai. As the fiftieth day of Easter, Christians maintained the festival, altering its focus to a celebration of the Spirit of the risen Christ in the church. In an oblique reference to Sinai, the fire of God's word is now on the foreheads of the faithful. In John, all believers receive the peace of the Lord. In Luke, especially the leaders are lauded. Pentecost concludes the Easter season.



[Acts 2:1-21](#)

The narrative of Pentecost exemplifies Luke's expert storytelling ability. The reading includes hidden references to the Hebrew Bible, a citation from the prophets, a contemporary geography lesson, an account of miracles, and the folksy detail of the accusation of drunkenness. As we await the eschatological end of all things, we are now those who prophesy, see visions, and dream dreams.

or

[Numbers 11:24-30](#)

In year A, the Pentecost narrative is linked with a parallel passage in Numbers in which many elders come to share religious leadership. The church continues to trust that God will inspire leaders for ministry.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

The psalm for the day, [Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#), is the only psalm in which it is usual to translate the Hebrew of verse 30 with the term "spirit," rather than breath or wind. The psalm praises God the creator, whose Spirit continually creates all that lives. Verses 27-28 have become part of a common table prayer. In an example of the lectionary's use of the Bible, the condemnation of verse 35a is omitted.

[1 Corinthians 12:3b-13](#)

The reading in Numbers is concerned with the authority of religious leadership, and this selection from 1 Corinthians with the many and varied roles of church members. We pray that the unity in the Spirit that Paul described will characterize also our assembly of faith.

or

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John 20:19-23

The Gospel of John is appointed for most of the primary festivals of the liturgical year because of John's high Christology and its centrality in the development of Christian doctrine. John says theologically the narrative of Pentecost: the breath of the risen Christ has enlivened the Christian community with the Spirit of God. This passage from John 20 was appointed also for the second Sunday of Easter.

or

John 7:37-39

The short passage from John 7 recapitulates the baptismal emphasis throughout Lent and Easter by acclaiming Christ as the living water. Recall that at his glorification on the cross, Jesus himself is thirsty; yet water flows from his side when he gives over his Spirit.