

WHIT SUNDAY (YEAR C) Sunday 8 June 2025

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

KITES

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

The Holy Spirit (John 14: 8-17)

It is Luke who provides the foundation account for the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost through his narrative in the Acts of the Apostles. According to Luke, the Holy Spirit came to the apostles with the sound of a mighty rushing wind and settled on them like tongues of fire. As part of Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples during the Last Supper, John narrates how Jesus had promised that the Father would send the Holy Spirit after Jesus' death and resurrection.

The image to stimulate reflection on the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost is *kites*. Kites are brought to life by the wind.

Core extract from the Gospel (John 14: 15-17); for reflection throughout the week

Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate,
to be with you for ever.
This is the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees him nor knows him.
You know him, because he abides with you,
and he will be in you.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord God,
you gave the Holy Spirit to your people,
with the sound of a mighty rushing wind.
Lift up our hearts by the same Spirit,
that we may live our lives in your presence
and proclaim your power throughout the world;
we make our prayer in Jesus' name.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

John 14: 8-17

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (John 14: 8-17)

Begin to explore John's account of how during the Last Supper Jesus promised that the Father would send the Holy Spirit by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What do you make of Jesus speaking during the Last Supper about going to the Father?
- How do you understand Jesus saying 'I will do whatever you ask in my name'?
- What did Jesus mean by saying 'The Father will give you *another* Advocate'?
- What is the significance of the promise that the Spirit 'abides with you, and will be in you'?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Check on the context for this Gospel passage in John.

- John 14: 1-7

Look up the foundation narrative for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- Acts 2: 1-13

Explore similar images in Acts.

- Acts 4: 31

Explore the Feast of Pentecost in the Old Testament.

- Exodus 34: 22

Explore images of wind in the Old Testament.

WHIT SUNDAY (YEAR C) Sunday 8 June 2025

- Psalm 78: 26
- Psalm 135: 7
- Psalm 148: 7-8
- Ezekiel 1: 3-5

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Classic images of the Day of Pentecost
- Promise of the Holy Spirit in John
- Making kites

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost is *kites*. Draw on your own experience of kites. For example:

- Have you made kites?
- Have you flown kites?
- Have you watched people flying kites?

What have you learned about kites?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost or by the image of kites.

- Make kites and display them.
- Make a collage of pictures of kites.
- Make a poster about the experience of the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the Day of Pentecost or on the image of kites.



**Liverpool
Cathedral**

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



The scripture quotations contained in these materials are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Leslie J. Francis, 2025
Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral
with sponsorship and support from
St Mary's Centre, Wales