

Novena to the Holy Spirit
Day VI - Wednesday
May 27th 2020



Reflection and Prayer
Prepared by the Spiritan Mission Ireland

Where the Spirit is, there is creation and new life.
Where the Spirit is, there is the living Christ.
The Spirit is the breath of God's creative love,
so that, whoever lives in the Spirit
lives in the ever newness of God.

Jesus stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.
He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.
Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
(Lk. 4:16-21)

This is how Luke, writing several decades after the first Easter, chooses to begin his account of the public ministry of Jesus. It is the Sabbath, a day to contemplate the creative and saving work of God as mandated by the Scriptures. People are gathered and ready to listen to the Word of God as they do every week. They bring with them the story of their lives: their hopes, their joys, their sorrows, their fears and their sins. They bring with them the fragile faith that they cling to in a world that seems not to care. Jesus looks into their hearts and shares with them a word that they need to hear. It is a word about the faithfulness of God who cares about the poor, the blind and all those oppressed by systems and attitudes that leave them downtrodden. It is a word they have heard before, so now they wait to see what light Jesus can shed on it. He simply affirms that this faithful God is here now, accomplishing his word through the gift of the Spirit. Luke's intention here is not merely to record what may have happened one day in a synagogue in Nazareth. Rather he is sharing the faith of the early Church that that every time the community gathers to commemorate the Lord's day the word is fulfilled in our hearing. The God of the Scriptures is not asking us just to believe in past events so that we might earn a future reward. No, the risen Christ calls us to contemplate today how the word is fulfilled in our hearing, his Spirit-filled community gathers because today God is willing us to live the power of the Spirit in our midst that we may share the Good News of God with the world.
He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.
The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands.
(Jn. 3:34-35)

(Pause for Reflection)

Let us pray:
Come Holy Spirit
and open up the Word of God for us,
that we may find there
our hope, our courage and our joy.
Through a faith-filled sharing of the word
may we become more authentic witnesses
of the transforming power of your love so that the whole world may join
in the praise of our liberator God.
AMEN.