

*"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."*

The readings for today if you wish to peruse them are: Acts 2: 1-21, Psalm 104: 24-34 & 35b, 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13, John 7: 37-39 and John 20: 19-23.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – PENTECOST**

*<sup>37</sup> On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."*

*<sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given since Jesus had not yet been glorified.* Jesus did not say that rivers of living water will flow occasionally from those who believe in Him, what He is telling us today is that if you believe in Him then these rivers of living water will continuously flow in your life because the Holy Spirit of God is the living waters that live within you when you accept Christ as your Lord and Saviour. Today we are reminded of this special gift that God has given all Christians, the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit and it is this river of living water that flows within each man and woman, boy and girl of faith. Just like a river it cannot be stopped or blocked from flowing, just like a river that is dammed it will build up until it overflows the dam, so we must not let it get blocked for God gave it to us to bubble up within us so that it overflows from us enabling us to then show His love to others and bring them to Christ. All Christians can release the power of that living water by asking Him to fill us each day so that we can pour out God's love to those around us and change their lives.

Yet today is a day where we can reflect on how tiring life can be, many of us feel discouraged for the lack of faith around us, in our homes and families, our neighbourhoods where downright rudeness and selfishness seems to hold sway. But if we ask God daily to fill us with the Holy Spirit, He will renew us and refresh us because like normal water the Holy Spirit nourishes and refreshes but is far more effective, for when you drink normal water you get thirsty, but with the living water of God you never get thirsty. The disciples were thirsty for more of the risen Christ and when he appeared to them he said: *"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."*

*<sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* We are to forgive sins, for it is easier to say I forgive you than to hold a grudge and never let it go. When you forgive you have a burden taken away from you, whereas if you hold onto a grievance it festers and makes you bitter and ill, just like a sore that you have ignored. But with the Holy Spirit within us it is easy to forgive, but we all know that sometimes, some burdens seem to be hard to let go of. The Holy Spirit guides us and helps us by taken the burden from us and carrying it to God for Him to deal with. When we pray it is the Spirit that intercedes on our behalf which in turn allows us to voice our unspoken hurt in our hearts. Remember Jesus told us to come to Him all those who are weary and burdened, so let the Holy Spirit

was you clean today, let Him wash away your burden and your pain so you can rest in Christ.

Today is Pentecost which is regarded as the birthday of the modern day Christian Church, it is this day that we celebrate the coming of God's Holy Spirit amongst Jesus' disciples and we read in the book of Acts all about this wonderful day and this wonderful gift from God. *2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.* God doesn't care what your background is, whether you are male or female, whether you are rich or poor, He calls every one of us to come to Him to serve Him and believe and trust in Him, He wants us to come home. No longer does He want His children to wander aimlessly about, empty and suffering inside because they have lost their faith, that is why Christ came to bring us back home. That is why He told the disciples to wait, to pray and to meditate on His word, until the Helper or Holy Spirit comes. For the Holy Spirit is our guide and our help especially in times of need, it is Him that we hear or feel inside us that reminds us that God is here and that we are not alone. God started by getting poor illiterate fishermen from Galilee to stand up full of His power in the middle of Jerusalem, a city that was hostile to the message of peace and hope that Christ taught but Peter stood up and told everyone: *"Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say...this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people." Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"* We all have received His Spirit and He gives us to each believer gifts in which to serve, all we have to do is ask Him to give us the strength and the wisdom to use them wisely so that we can bring glory to God and bring the Gospel message of hope to those around us. In these desperate times it may feel as if the world is approaching its end, but Peter repeated what the prophet Joel said, we can be reassured that those days are not now, but are close, so are we prepared, have we received Christ into our lives? Ask Him to send you the Holy Spirit to wash you clean today and ask

Him to strengthen you so that you can be a blessing in His name to those you meet and pray for. Every person is given faith when they become reborn of the Spirit, and we can all rest assured that God will always give us enough faith to receive His grace each day of our lives which will allow us to carry out His will and complete His work to fulfill every task. So, let us with gladness today praise the Lord!

### PRAYER

Father today is the day of Pentecost, today is the day we pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives and ask Him to cleanse, renew and uplift us and our faith today. We pray in Jesus name for healing today for all those affected by Covid 19. We pray for the healing of the nations and for the country today. Many people are angry, upset and don't trust the government now over one man's decision to ignore the advice that was given to us all. Now many fear that people will not listen anymore and make the situation in our country worse. Help us Lord to make the wise decisions, help those in government make the wise decisions and guide the doctors and nurses in their decision making also.

Today we celebrate life, we celebrate your gift of your Spirit, our helper and guide. We thank you Father for sending Him to us, helps us today to listen to His voice. Help us to read and study our Bibles and pray for those in need in our society. We know that the Holy Spirit is with us as you are, and He carries our heartfelt pleas to you in heaven where we know that you listen and act. Help us to learn patience and give us understanding and wisdom to rely on you and to trust in you to act, for we know Lord that what we want may not be the best thing, but you are always right, help us to know and understand we pray

Comfort those who are grieving today, for the loss of loved ones, which is made even harder when we cannot be with them or see them or give them a proper farewell. Comfort them Lord, help them lean on your strength, let them feel your love around them and do the same for all our key workers, for they need to feel and know your love and strength today also. Help us all to pray today in Jesus name and give us the words to pray guided by your Spirit. Amen.