

## **Day of Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018**

**The Collect:** Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **First Lesson: Acts 2:1-21**

#### **Psalm 104: 25-35,37**

25 O Lord, how manifold are your works! \* in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, \* creatures both small and great.

27 There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, \* which you have made for the sport of it.

28 All of them look to you \* to give them their food in due season.

29 You give it to them; they gather it; \* you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; \* you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; \* and so you renew the face of the earth.

32 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; \* may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; \* he touches the mountains and they smoke.

34 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; \* I will praise my God while I have my being.

35 May these words of mine please him; \* I will rejoice in the Lord.

37 Bless the Lord, O my soul. \* Hallelujah!

### **Second Lesson: Romans 8:22-27**

### **Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

## **Celebration for the week: On May 22 we celebrate The first Book of Common Prayer**

In 1549, under the reign of Edward VI, successor to Henry VIII, the primary language of public worship in England and other areas ruled by Edward was changed from Latin to English, and the first Book of Common Prayer came into use. It was first used on Pentecost Sunday, June 9 1549, and the occasion is now commemorated "on the first convenient day following Pentecost." The Book was the work of a commission of scholars, but primarily of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury. It was based primarily upon the Latin worship tradition of the Use of Sarum (similar to, but not identical with, the Roman rite used by most Roman Catholic between 1600 and 1950), with some elements taken from the Greek liturgies of the Eastern Church, from ancient Gallican (French) rites, from the new Lutheran order of service, and from the Latin rite of Cologne.

The older usage had grown haphazardly through the centuries, and had added so many complications that it was difficult to follow (the priest often needed to juggle up to a dozen books to get through a single service). The new order pruned and simplified so that only one book other than the Bible was necessary, and so that even the laity could follow the service and participate without difficulty. Moreover, the quality of the English was outstanding. All Christians who worship in English, from Roman Catholics to Southern Baptists and beyond, are in some measure influenced by it, and all to whom it is important that the people of God understand the worship of the Church and take an active part therein have cause to be grateful for the Book of Common Prayer.

At the time, it had its drawbacks. It was resented in non-English-speaking areas ruled from London, such as Ireland, Wales, and Cornwall. If a Gaelic version had been produced simultaneously, the religious history of Ireland might have been radically different. As it was, the Prayer Book and the English Bible were viewed as part of an attempt to impose the English language upon Ireland. Similar sentiments were common in Wales and Cornwall, but with less drastic consequences.

**Let us pray:** Almighty and ever living God, whose servant Thomas Cranmer, with others, restored the language of the people in the prayers of your Church: Make us always thankful

for this heritage; and help us so to pray in the Spirit and with the understanding, that we may worthily magnify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**