

## Scripture Readings for May 31

### Genesis 11:1-9

- 1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.
- 2 As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.
- 3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.
- 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."
- 5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.
- 6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.
- 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."
- 8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.
- 9 That is why it was called Babel --because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

### Acts 2:1-21

- 1 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.
- 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
- 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.
- 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.
- 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?"
- 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?
- 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
- 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome
- 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"
- 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"
- 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."
- 14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.
- 15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!
- 16 No, 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 heaven 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.'

### John 20:19-23

- 19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"
- 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.
- 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
- 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
- 23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."