

## A Choral Reading of Acts 2:1-21 for Pentecost

*The reading may begin with the Taizé song “Holy Spirit, Come to Us” (Sing the Faith 2118).  
The song can serve as a Prayer for Illumination.*

*Three readers stand in the midst of the people.*

READER ONE:      When the day of Pentecost had come,  
                         they were all together in one place.  
                         And suddenly from heaven there came a sound  
                         like the rush of a violent wind,  
                         and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.  
                         Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them,  
                         and a tongue rested on each of them.  
                         All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit  
                         and began to speak in other languages,  
                         as the Spirit gave them ability.

READER TWO:      Now there were devout Jews  
                         from every nation under heaven  
                         living in Jerusalem.  
                         And at this sound the crowd gathered  
                         and was bewildered,  
                         because each one heard them speaking  
                         in the native language of each.  
                         Amazed and astonished, they asked,

READER THREE:    “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?  
                         And how is it that we hear, each of us,  
                         in our own native language?”

*Voices overlapping:*

ONE:                Parthians, Medes, Elamites,  
TWO:                and residents of Mesopotamia,  
THREE:             Judea and Cappadocia,  
  
ONE:                Pontus and Asia,  
TWO:                Phrygia and Pamphylia,  
THREE:             Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene,  
  
ONE:                and visitors from Rome,  
TWO:                both Jews and proselytes,  
THREE:             Cretans and Arabs—

**ALL:                in our own languages we hear them  
                         speaking about God’s deeds of power.”**

ONE: All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another,  
ALL: **“What does this mean?”**

TWO: But others sneered and said,  
THREE: “They are filled with new wine.”

ONE: But Peter, standing with the eleven,  
raised his voice and addressed them,  
TWO: [People] of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem,  
let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.  
Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose,  
for it is only nine o’clock in the morning.  
No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:  
THREE: In the last days it will be, God declares, that  
ALL: **I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,**  
ONE: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
TWO: and your young shall see visions,  
THREE: and your old shall dream dreams.

ONE: Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
ALL: **in those days I will pour out my Spirit;**  
ONE: and they shall prophesy.  
TWO: And I will show portents in the heaven above  
THREE: and signs on the earth below,  
ONE: blood,  
TWO: and fire,  
THREE: and smoky mist.

ONE: The sun shall be turned to darkness  
TWO: and the moon to blood,  
THREE: before the coming of that great and glorious day.  
ALL: **Then everyone who calls on God’s name  
shall be saved.**

*At the conclusion of the reading, you may reprise the song “Holy Spirit, Come to Us.”*