

Sacred Spirit Sunday.

Have you ever noticed reading the Bible that texts are printed in two different formats? One is the ordinary way books are printed, indicating the text is prose. Sometimes, as with the psalms and various canticles, the format is spaced differently, reflecting a poetic passage. Both the Old and New Testament include prose and poetry.

The left side of our brain processes prose, the right side of our brain processes poetry. So the Bible speaks to both. Homilies are usually in prose, but occasionally having the homily speak to the right side of the brain is a good thing. Pentecost can speak to the right side of the brain. Let's give that a try with the homily as well.

So many spiritual words begin with the letter "S". Sacraments. Salvation. Sacrifice. Surrender. Sanctify ... and that is just the start! Since alliteration can capture our attention, create captivating poetry, freely fall from our lips, let's touch on Jesus' mission, the Passion, his resurrection appearance in our Gospel, and the description of Pentecost in the 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

Starting scene:

Sovereign sees sin, selfishness, suffering. Straying sheep.

So saddened, Sovereign sends savior, son.

Summoning sheep, Son shepherds, showing sinners salvation.

Son's successful shepherding scares suspicious Sanhedrin,

so Sanhedrin spurns Son.

Savior suffers slander, scorn, spite, scheming.

Savior sentenced, scourged, stretched, slain, side speared.

Savior solemnly spice shrouded. Stone secures sepulcher.

Supreme sorrow!

Sorrowful sheep scatter. Simon slumps.

Saturday sees sarcophagal silence.

Sunday's sunrise sees sensational scene.

Supplanted stone startles snoozing sentries.

Sentries search sepulcher. See shroud sans son!

Savior's solution – servanthood, submission, soul surrender, sacrifice –  
Secures salvation!

Supreme sacrifice smashes Satan's scepter,  
shatters sin's seductive slavery.  
Seething, Satan sighs, screams – subdued, stifled.

Second scene:

Savior's summoned servants sit sternly, sequestered, scared.  
Souls still shocked, sorrowful. Struggling, somber, sullen –  
Servants seek some small sign.

Suddenly, Savior stands, speaking shalom,  
showing side, shocking servants.  
Savior sends sweet, Sacred Spirit.  
Shimmering, scintillating, soaring, sizzling Spirit.  
Sweet scented, subtle, sanctifying Spirit.  
Swiftly searching, seeking, scrutinizing;  
Sculpting, shaping, splendid Spirit!

Spirit severs silence. Sudden, swift, supernatural sounds!  
Such startling, stellar, satisfying, sacramental sound:  
Salvation's symphony!

Sinners, servants – soon shepherds, saints slowly stand.  
Sinfulness, selfishness sifted, softened, subdued;  
Serving spirit supplied. Souls stirred, surrendered.

Sweet, sweet surrender! Strong, secure, steadfast:  
Souls stretch, spiraling skyward! So stand Savior's sworn servants!  
Searching scripture's storehouse, saving story's source,  
    Servants show saving sacrifice's scriptural seed.  
Spontaneously speaking salvation,  
    Sharing scripture, suddenly sage,  
Servants stun spectators. Shalom suffuses sermons.  
    Savior smiles!

Sacred Spirit shapes story's stewards.  
So starts Savior's shepherding succession.  
Saints sing! Stars shine! Souls soar!

So .... Sinners, servants, soon saints ...  
    Stop slumbering, stumbling, stammering.  
Sin, self-satisfaction, self-absorption -- sow shame.  
Savior severs sin's stronghold, slays serpent,  
    Subdues selfish, sin sickness.

Seek soul's sole solace, serenity's supreme source!  
Search sacred scriptures.  
Summon sweet Sacred Spirit!  
Study Spirit's saving school!  
Share Spirit's sevenfold, supporting strengths:  
    Sustaining, stretching, shaping, sanctifying.  
Souls Spirit sealed + shine servants!!  
Submit. Surrender. Savor sweet, sweet Spirit.

Spanning sky, soaking souls, scripting story;

Supplying speech, singing salvation,

Sovereign, subtle, swift, sublime, superlative Sacred Spirit!

Savior still summons.

Sent Spirit still strengthens, stretches, shapes, sanctifies.

Sincere servants still submit.

Surrender, servants, stewards, saints!

Submit, surrender ... Spirit suffused,

Sing salvation's song! Share saving story! Serve sweet Savior!

Soar, Spirit sent!