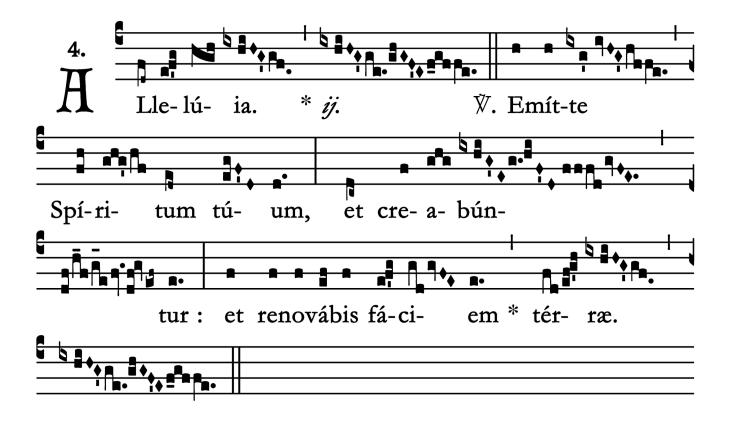


The Spirit of the Lord hath filled the whole earth, alleluia: and that which containeth all things hath knowledge of the voice, alleluia, alleluia. Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered: and let them that hate him flee from before his face.

—Wisdom 1:7, Psalm 67:2



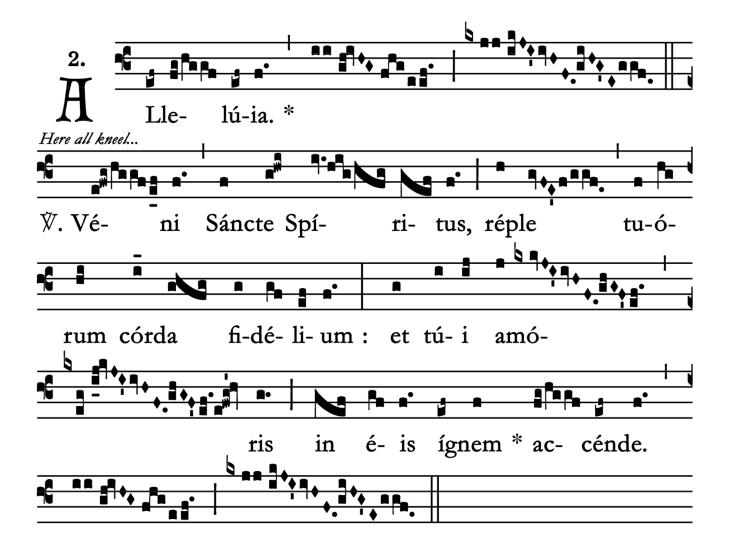
Send forth thy Spirit, and they shall be created: and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

—Psalm 103:30

Today there is a clear connection between the Alleluia and the preceding Epistle, a relationship which is not so obvious on some other days, and often is lacking entirely. In a vivid, captivating manner the marvel of Pentecost was held before our eyes. How wondrous were its effects. The Spirit had descended upon the Apostles, who a short time before were much like the lifeless clay of Adam's body before God had breathed a soul into it. Now they have become a new creation; they are filled with life, wisdom, courage, and energy; they are determined to carry the richness of life which they received to the ends of the world and renew the entire earth. Oh, may He come again, this Holy Spirit, and again effect a new creation! That is the suppliant cry of the present Alleluia proper.

How vitally necessary the Holy Spirit is to us! And how many men there are who know nothing of Him, who no longer know the meaning of spirit and grace and purity and the supernatural life. They have lost all religious sense. The material world alone captivates them. Would that the Spirit who in the beginning swept over the waters, might once again sweep over this matter and vivify it! How fervently this petition rises from the heart of the Church! And yet we clothe it in the jubilant cry of Alleluia, because we know that we have a right to this Spirit in virtue of the fact that we have been redeemed.

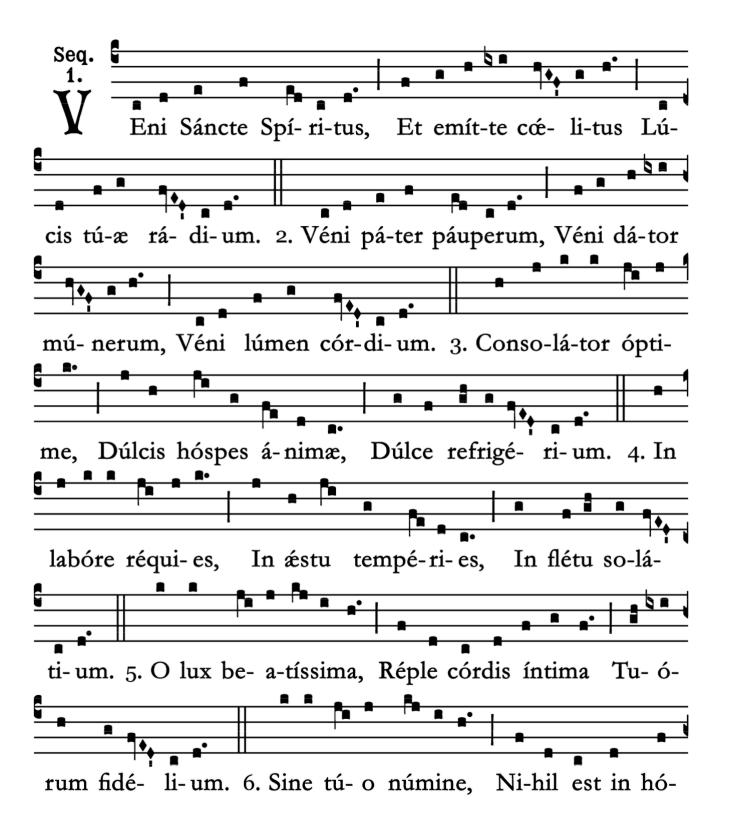
—Dom Dominic Johner, O.S.B.



Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful: and kindle in them the fire of thy love.

This melody must be numbered among the most impressive and most beautiful in the entire Graduale. "Here all kneel"—that is the simple rubric. And when at high Mass the bishop with his assistants kneel down at the throne, when all those in choir bend the knee, then this one wish is uppermost: Would that I might sing this chant with that deep fervor with which it was first conceived and then sung throughout the centuries, with that depth and ardor with which the Blessed Virgin called upon the Holy Spirit during the novena preceding Pentecost Day! Like the dew from heaven its tones should sink into the hearts of the faithful.

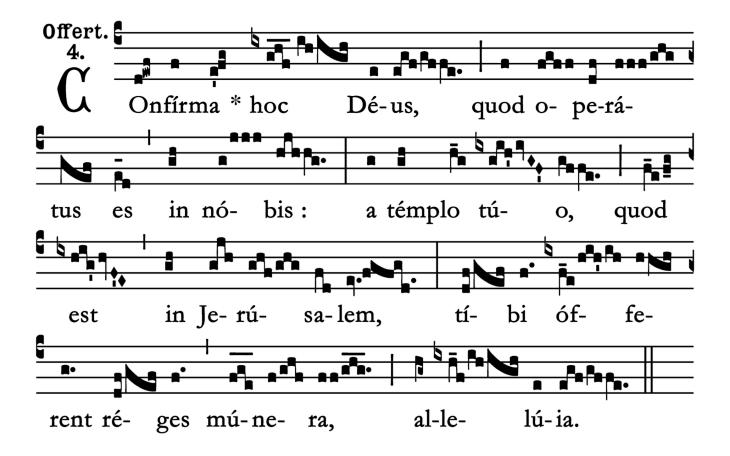
—Dom Dominic Johner, O.S.B.





1. Come, Holy Spirit, and send forth from heaven the rays of thy light. 2. Come, Father of the poor; come, giver of gifts; come, light of hearts. 3. O best Comforter, sweet guest of the soul, sweet refreshment. 4. Rest amidst labor; temperateness amidst heat; solace amidst tears. 5. O most blessed Light, fill the inmost heart of thy faithful. 6. Without thy divinity, there is nothing in man, nothing is harmless. 7. Wash what is filthy, water what is dry, heal what is wounded. 8. Bend what is rigid, warm what is cold, direct what is deviant. 9. Give to thy faithful, who trust in thee, the sacred sevenfold gift. 10. Grant us the merit of virtue, grant us salvation at our going forth, grant us perpetual joy.

—Stephen Cardinal Langton (c. 1150 – 1228)



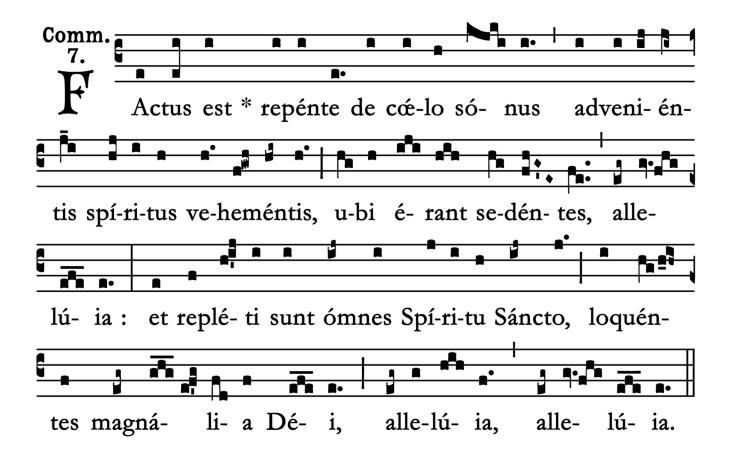
Confirm this, O God, which thou hast wrought in us: from thy temple, which is in Jerusalem, kings shall offer presents to thee, alleluia.

—Psalm 67:29-30

On Christmas (first and third Masses), on Easter, and on Pentecost the Offertory belongs to the fourth mode. But how varied is the feeling! At Christmas it is a meditative, blissful, intimate song, not intended for the big outside world; at Easter, a melody full of power and weight, a paen of victory; and now, on Pentecost Day, a fervent yet joyously moving prayer, calling upon the Holy Spirit much like today's second Alleluia.

If the Spirit can again be active in our souls, can establish and "confirm" them, what, then, will His effect be? Simply this, that we shall function properly as participants in the kingly priesthood, and shall offer our gifts, not in a sorrowful or forced manner, but magnanimously, in the joy of the Holy Spirit.

—Dom Dominic Johner, O.S.B.



Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty wind coming, whence they were sitting: and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak of the wonderful works of God.

1. Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; and let them that hate him flee from before his face. 2. And let the just rejoice and exult before God, and be delighted with gladness. 3. Sing ye to God, sing a psalm to his name; make a way for him who ascendeth upon the west: the Lord is his name. 4. Rejoice ye before him; who is the father of orphans, and the judge of widows, God in his holy place. 5. O God, when thou didst go forth in the sight of thy people, when thou didst pass through the desert. 6. The earth was moved, and the heavens dropped at the presence of the God of Sinai, at the presence of the God of Israel. 7. Blessed be the Lord day by day; the God of our salvation will make our journey prosperous to us. 8. Our God is the God of salvation; and of the Lord, of the Lord are the issues from death. 9. Command thy strength, O God; confirm, O God, what thou hast wrought in us. 10. God is wonderful in his saints! The God of Israel is he who will give power and strength to his people. Blessed be God.