

Wine

Through fermentation, yeasts convert the sugar in grapes into carbon dioxide and other byproducts, including alcohol. There is obvious energy in this transformation. Fermenting grapes hiss and fizz with potentially explosive force. In Christian tradition, wine has become symbolic for the power of the Holy Spirit.

God's Spirit is the lifeblood of the Body of Christ. Jesus commands us to drink deeply. On Pentecost the disciples drank so much of the Spirit that the bystanders thought they were drunk. The Pentecostal signs of the Spirit, such as fire and wind, share qualities in common. Like wine, they can be agents of destruction or forces for creativity and delight.

During Eastertime, it seems as if the earth itself is filled with these signs. Orchards and vineyards blossom. Sunshine pours down and gentle breezes blow. And, on occasion, there are windy thunderstorms and even worse. Keep people in your prayers whose lives are disrupted when the weather turns wild.

Throughout Eastertime, celebrate the Spirit with kites and windsocks, with maywine and sweet liqueurs, with fiery barbecues and flickering candles. Make of this season a time to turn away from destruction and to renew your powers of creativity and delight. In the Eucharistic feast, drink deeply of the Spirit.

