

Like a Dove Descending

A prayer service on The Holy Spirit

P: We stand before You today, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Opening Hymn

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth-tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed:
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Words: William Kethe (1561), Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us.

(To be repeated thrice)

P. O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners.

Bless us, O Lord.

(Let us say together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

***All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.***

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.

(Cong to be seated)

Lesson 1: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lesson 2: Acts 1:6-11

L: Meditation

As a Christian you have all the power you need for all the problems you face. The Bible says your body is a temple for the Holy Spirit who is in you. The question isn't, "How do I get more of the Spirit?" but rather, "How can you, Spirit, have more of me?" We'd expect a Mother Teresa-size answer! Build an orphanage; Memorize Leviticus; Bathe lepers and so on. *Do this and be filled*, we think. *Do this on your own and be tired*, God corrects.

Do you desire God's Spirit? Here's what you do: He says everyone who asks will receive. You know how to give good things to your children; how much more your heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. Friend, you can do all things through Christ who gives you strength. Welcome the Spirit into every part of your heart!

1. How can the Holy Spirit become a practical help in our daily lives?

The idea that the Holy Spirit can help us on a day-to-day basis stirs a lot of questions for many people. Who is the Spirit? For whom does the Spirit exist? Does the Holy Spirit have a purpose? What exactly does the Holy Spirit do? I think we start by opening our minds to the possibility that we have a heaven-sent helper, the divine helper.

The presence of God seeks to be our friend. And for many people that's a whole new idea because we're trained in our culture that it's me, myself and I. If I'm going to succeed, it's because I pull myself up by the bootstraps. So for many the first step is opening yourself up to the possibility that you have an unfailing

friend in the Holy Spirit. And that Holy Spirit is the presence of God active on earth today, who is ready to guide you and give you strength

2. How can the Holy Spirit bring us peace?

The Holy Spirit descended at the baptism of Jesus. In the Gospel of Luke, it says the Holy Spirit came as a dove. I cannot think of a bird more peaceful, more calming. I believe the Holy Spirit comes like a dove to remind us that he is here to calm the world.

The first reference in the Bible to the Holy Spirit is in the very first book, the very first chapter: Genesis 1:2. The Spirit of God hovered over the deep. The creation had yet to begin. The world was just a teeming mass of fury, but the Spirit of God came and hovered, like an eagle hovering over a nest of eaglets to calm them down.

The Holy Spirit is ever present to calm us and help us. If we welcome the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, then we can develop the habit of talking to the Holy Spirit throughout the day, trusting in his leading, learning to hear his voice. That calming presence will help us, especially these days, when we deal with so much anxiety.

How does the Holy Spirit guide us?

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus talked about the coming of the Holy Spirit and said, "The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth." The Holy Spirit guides us by verse and voice, of which there are two types. Sometimes it's that inner voice, that inner knowing. He may guide us through thoughts that we have, maybe through impulses. I realize this gets a bit mystical, but that's the nature of the Holy Spirit. We have a voice within us. It's more than a conscience. This is a voice within us telling us to turn this way or that, or to avoid this or to pursue that.

Dear Lord, help me realise Your presence through the Holy Spirit and help me to open myself to the working of the Spirit.

<https://guideposts.org/inspiring-stories/max-lucado-on-the-holy-spirit/>

Hymn

Holy Spirit, faithful Guide,
Ever near the Christian's side;
Gently lead us by the hand,
Pilgrims in a desert land;
Weary souls fore'er rejoice,
While they hear that sweetest voice
Whisp'ring softly, "Wand'rer, come!
Follow Me, I'll guide thee home."

Ever present, truest Friend,
Ever near Thine aid to lend,
Leave us not to doubt and fear,
Groping on in darkness drear;
When the storms are raging sore,
Hearts grow faint, and hopes give o'er.

Whisp'ring softly, "Wand'rer, come!
Follow Me, I'll guide thee home."

When our days of toil shall cease,
Waiting still for sweet release,
Nothing left but heav'n and prayer,
Wond'ring if our names were there;
Wading deep the dismal flood,
Pleading naught but Jesus' blood,
Whisp'ring softly, "Wand'rer, come!
Follow Me, I'll guide thee home."
Author: M. M. Wells (1858), Tune: GUIDE (Wells)

L: Holy Spirit, Come to me

Holy Spirit, come to me,
rest right here, inside of me
guard my heart, keep my mind
let it be Your peace, that I find.

Holy Spirit, come be with me,
continually support, all of me
lead my soul, direct my ways
hear the words, my heart prays.

Holy Spirit, come anoint me,
place your seal, right here in me
Spirit of Life, Spirit of Grace
may Your wisdom, I embrace.

Holy Spirit, come comfort me,
release and deliver, unto me
all Your might, all Your power
counsel me, every waking hour.

Holy Spirit, my Father's gift to me,
Spirit of Christ, living inside me
Spirit of God, Spirit of holy Fear
come whisper truth, in my ear!

(Cong to stand)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy***

P: Oh Holy Spirit, You are the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. You are the Spirit of truth, love and holiness, proceeding from the Father and worshipped

equally with the Father and Son, and equal to Them in all things. We adore You and love You with all our hearts.

C: Teach us to know and to seek God, by whom and for whom we were created. Fill our hearts with a holy fear and a great love for Him. Give us compunction and patience, and do not let us fall into sin. Make us faithful followers of Jesus, obedient children of the Church and a help to our neighbours. When in doubt, help us to lean on your voice that speaks to us from within us and when we are lost, may we let ourselves be guided by you. Raise us to holiness in the state of life to which You have called us, and lead us through a happy death to everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Intercessory Prayers

L: Heavenly Trinity, we come together today to worship a triune God, multi-faceted, dynamic yet unchanged. Thank you for the holy spirit who works hard at guiding us through life, through each twist and turn. Teach us to listen to this inner voice and make our decisions as we are led. Thank you that through the Holy Spirit, it is always a 'we' and never a 'me'. May we focus on building communities founded on love and rooted in acceptance so that each person may find a haven of belonging, a safe space to exist as they are. Help us to foster relationships of kindness and peace and to extend our hands to help wherever needed. Teach us to make the world a place of support and acknowledgement for all.

C: To be sung

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word:
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

L: As our world gets more and more divisive, we ask that you spread the air of unity among us. We submit into your hands the soon to be elected leaders of our country and ask that you be a God that guides and moulds their plans for the common benefit of all citizens. We submit into your care the strife and turmoil that has plagued our world beyond the borders. We ask that a wave of peace washes over the affected areas so that people may once again raise their hearts and praise you for your goodness. In situations that demand that we think on our feet, may we apply our religion logically and put into practice what we have been taught – to fight for the downtrodden, to accept the outcasts, to be kind to the broken hearted, to empower the astray and to love, fiercely and passionately just as you have loved us.

C: To be sung

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone:

By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

L: We are grateful for institutions like our church among others that aim at providing an anchor of direction, peace and comfort in the storms of life. Thank you for our Achens and Thirumenis that have dedicated their lives to spreading the good news. Through them, may we scrutinise our faith and get to the bottom of it, foundation and all. Help us to be curious, help us to work at demystifying our belief so that we can know from deep within our hearts, the why's and because's of what we do. May each thing that we do come from a place of surety, of security, of quiet hope and of undeniable joy. Let us come together to turn this light from within outwards so that we may contribute to the larger picture. Let us truly become, one in the spirit.

C: *To be sung*

Take time to be holy, let Him be thy guide,
And run not before Him whatever betide;
In joy or in sorrow still follow thy Lord,
And looking to Jesus, still trust in His word
Author: William D. Longstaff (1882)

Gospel Reading

P: † Peace be with you all.

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by the Apostle **John**

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So, we believe and affirm. (**John 14:14-21**)

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, † '**Peace be with you all**')

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed

P: We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty,

C: Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us in

the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

(Cong to be seated)

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary and Thanksgiving

I need thee every hour,
most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine
can peace afford.

*I need thee, O I need thee;
every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Saviour,
I come to thee.*

I need thee every hour,
stay thou near by;
temptations lose their power
when thou art nigh.

I need thee every hour,
in joy or pain;
come quickly, and abide,
or life is vain.

Author: Annie S. Hawks (1872)

Offertory

Are you sitting idle, while there's work to do?
In the Master's vineyard there's a place for you;
Be a faithful servant, ever ready stand,
Where the Master calls you, lend a helping hand.

*Lend a hand, lend a hand, lend a helping hand;
Precious ones are falling,
Lend a helping hand.
Lend a hand, lend a hand, lend a helping hand;
Jesus still is calling,
Lend a helping hand.*

Is your voice now silent? there are songs to sing,
Help to swell the chorus make his praises ring;

