

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Silence is kept

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Come down O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing
O comforter draw near, within my heart appear
And kindle it thy holy flame bestowing.
(Bianco da Siena (d.1434); Tr. R.F.Littledale)

May the creator bless you and keep you
May the beloved compassion face you
and have mercy upon you
May the eternal spirit's countenance be turned to you
and give you peace
May the three in one bless you

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

A Reflective Service for worship in isolation
Preparation for the feast of Pentecost

*Send forth your spirit O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth*

We read in the Acts of the Apostles that, after the Ascension, Jesus' disciples spent time in prayer and patient waiting for the promised gift of God's Holy Spirit. Following this example the Church has traditionally kept a "novena" (9 days) of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Let us keep this novena together, now, remembering our unity with family, friends and neighbours; Christians across the world, and the many millions who, like us, wait in isolation. To help us with this, we have "Thy Kingdom Come" (TKC). Alongside this order of service, you can use the accompanying TKC leaflet to link your prayers with those of our brothers and sisters around the world.

To begin with, keep a short silence to still your heart. You may like to light a candle, and to have close by some photographs or other symbols of people you would like to feel connected with.

Lord God, as I come into your presence, still my body, open my heart and focus my mind, that I may know your Spirit drawing me closer to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. *(Romans 8:14-16)*



We come before God with honesty, and with confidence in his love and mercy. In a moment's silence, call to mind the things that are separating you from Him.

Words of confession

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit.

Lord have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart.

Christ have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided.

Lord have mercy.

Absolution

May God our Father forgive us our sins and bring us to the fellowship of his table with his saints for ever. Amen.

The Word

For Bible reading during the novena of prayer, here is a choice.

A) You may find it helpful to have a very short passage to reflect on, perhaps a just single verse. If so refer to the accompanying TKC leaflet for some suggested passages.

B) If you'd like to have something fuller to 'chew' on try using the passages that now follow here. They will help you to reflect upon the Holy Spirit as we prepare for the feast of Pentecost. First, read some verses from a Psalm, take them slowly and take a moment to think about them before moving on. After that, a Bible passage. Reflect on what it might have meant to those who first wrote it and also what it says to you at this moment.

Friday 22 May: Ps 47:1-6 Acts 1:12-14

Saturday 23 May: Ps 103:1-5 & 19-22 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

Sunday 24 May: Ps 95:1-7 Matthew 28:16-20

Monday 25 May: Ps 42:1-7

John 14:25-27

Tuesday 26 May: Ps 84:1-6

Galatians 5:22-25

Wednesday 27 May: Ps 16:v1 and 5-11

Romans 8:22-30

Thursday 28 May: Ps 139: 1-13

Genesis 1:1-3 and ch2v7

Friday 29 May: Ps 121

Ezekiel 37:1-10

Saturday 30 May: Ps 29

Acts 2:1-21

Sunday 31 May, the Feast of Pentecost (Whitsunday)

Ps 104:v25 and 31-37

John 20:19-23

We affirm our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,

who lives in our hearts through faith,

and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers: first take a moment to call to mind a time when you felt the presence or the guidance of God particularly strongly.

O Lord how manifold are your works

in wisdom you have made them all. Alleluia!

Now, we turn our attention outwards to the needs of others. During the novena of prayer we are sharing with Christians all over the world through "Thy kingdom Come" (TKC). On the accompanying TKC leaflet you will find a scheme of Intercession for each day.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.