



Prayer Resource for use at Home

Prayer During the Day Ascension Day until the Day of Pentecost

Beacon Parishes Mission Community
Ipplepen with Torbryan, Denbury, Broadhempston and Woodland

Ascension to Pentecost

From the Friday after Ascension day begin nine days of prayer (or novena) before Pentecost, prayers of waiting expectantly for the Holy Spirit. The key prayer is 'Come Holy Spirit'. These days reflect what is described in the book of Acts following the first Ascension day.

While staying with them [Jesus] ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (Acts 1:4-5)



Engraving by Pieter van der Borcht II (1545 – 1608)

When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. (Acts 1:13-14)

We pray 'Come Holy Spirit' in these days before Pentecost not simply to prepare ourselves to celebrate the event described in Acts 2 but to open our hearts for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on us as we approach and celebrate the feast.

(Excerpts taken from The Way of Christ-likeness by Michael Perham p138-139)



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Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. *Psalm 8.*

Praise

Blessed are you, the God of our ancestors,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed is your holy and glorious name,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you, in your holy and glorious temple,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you who look into the depths,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you, enthroned on the cherubim,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you in the heights of heaven,
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever. *The Song of the Three 29-34*

The Word of God

<i>Sunday</i>	Psalm 104.26-32
<i>Monday</i>	Psalm 21.1-7
<i>Tuesday</i>	Psalm 29
<i>Wednesday</i>	Psalm 46
<i>Thursday</i>	Psalm 84
<i>Friday</i>	Psalm 93
<i>Saturday</i>	Psalm 98



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Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen

Short readings

Ascension Day or on any day after Ascension

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9.24*

Friday after Ascension

As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to human beings, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. *Hebrews 2.8b-10*

Saturday after Ascension

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8.38,39



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Sunday after Ascension

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive.

John 7.37-39a

Monday

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. *Isaiah 40.28-end*

Tuesday

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *1 Corinthians 12.4-7*

Wednesday

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. *Joel 2.28,29*



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Thursday

Jesus said, 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!' *Luke 11.9-13*

Friday

In Christ every one of God's promises is a 'Yes'. For this reason it is through him that we say the 'Amen', to the glory of God. But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first instalment. *2 Corinthians 1.20-22*

Saturday

The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. *2 Corinthians 3.17,18*

The Day of Pentecost

Jesus said, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. 'When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' *John 20.21,22*



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Response

Listening for Christ the Word:

What word or phrase attracts me in today's reading?

How Christ the Word speaks to me:

How does the content of this reading touch my life today?

What Christ the Word is inviting me to do:

'I believe that God wants me to today'

Prayers

Prayers may include these concerns:

- God's royal priesthood, that it may be empowered by the Spirit
- Those who wait on God, that they may find renewal
- All people, that they may acknowledge the kingdom of the ascended Christ
- The earth, for productivity and for fruitful harvests
- All who are struggling with broken relationships

O King enthroned on high,
Comforter and Spirit of truth,
you that are in all places and fill all things,
the treasury of blessings and the giver of life,
come and dwell with us,
cleanse us from every stain
and save our souls, O gracious one. Amen. *an Orthodox prayer*

The Lord's Prayer is said

The Conclusion

May the grace of the Holy Spirit
enlighten our hearts and minds.
Alleluia. Amen.