

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Call to (a Wave of) Prayer



DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

THE PASTORAL LETTER:
BY: BISHOP DANIEL
ON MARCH 23RD, 2016



Beloved in Christ,

For some years now, one of my regular petitions in prayer has been for an unmistakable and powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit on and in the Diocese of Springfield—indeed, a *disruptive* outpouring, one that might tempt us to regret having asked for it in the first place! I continue to offer that prayer,

and I know many have joined me.

Revival cannot be confected. There is no recipe or formula that will make it happen. The Holy Spirit of God is sovereign. However, those who have studied revivals in retrospect uniformly report that a revival is invariably preceded by a season of concerted prayer on the part of God's people. We cannot control the Holy Spirit and produce revival-on-demand. But we *can* decide how and when we pray, and what we ask for in our prayers.

A few weeks ago, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York announced an initiative that they characterized as a “wave of prayer” for the evangelization of England, focused on the ten days between the feast of Our Lord's Ascension (May 5) and the

Day of Pentecost (May 15). This news immediately and compellingly struck a chord in my heart. After holding this concern in prayer, and then consulting an *ad hoc* and informal Council of Advice made up of about a dozen clergy and lay leaders, **I am inviting the baptized faithful of the Diocese of Springfield to join me in our own “wave of prayer” for the evangelization of central and southern Illinois**, also focused on the period between Ascension and Pentecost. Both Matthew and Mark tells us of an occasion when Jesus looked out on the crowd coming toward him and “had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36). Our first concern as we pray for revival and evangelization is that we be given hearts that beat in sync with the heart of Jesus, that we look out on the people among whom we live in the cities, towns, campuses, and rural communities of this diocese and be moved with the same compassion that moves Jesus.

You may have heard the expression *novena*. It doesn't enjoy wide popularity in Anglican vocabulary, but it's exactly what we're talking about here—a nine-day period of concentrated prayer focused on a particular intercessory concern. While various Christian communities (parishes, dioceses, religious orders, and schools) observe novenas at different times of year, the historical origin of the practice lies precisely in the time between Ascension and Pentecost, as we wait with the disciples in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

My hope is that every Eucharistic Community in the diocese will have a public celebration of Ascension on May 5 (or the evening of the 4th), either individually or in cooperation with

others on a regional or deanery basis. I realize this will be challenging for some, but I nonetheless ask you to make it a priority, and can virtually promise that you will be blessed in doing so. My further hope is that some or all of the liturgical materials that my office will shortly distribute to clergy (and in some cases, laity) in charge of congregations will be widely used. These include a Collect, a form for the Prayers of the People, a Eucharistic Prayer, and devotional forms for use by individuals, families, and small groups.

I am greatly encouraged by much of what I see already happening in several parts of the diocese. The Spirit is already loose among us! What I am proposing here is not some sort of desperate measure. Rather, it is a petition that the Holy Spirit enable us to crank up the volume on a song that we are already singing. Will you add your voice to this chorus?

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

+Daniel Springfield

Diocese of Springfield
Liturgical Resources: Novena for Revival & Evangelization

A Collect

This collect is commended for use in public worship in the Eucharistic Communities of the Diocese of Springfield between Ascension Day and the Day of Pentecost, 2016. In the Eucharist, it may be used either in addition to the Collect of the Day, or at

the conclusion of the Prayers of the People. In the Daily Office, it may take the place of the Collect for Mission.

Contemporary

Holy Spirit of God, you have poured your love into our hearts and granted us a diversity of gifts for the building up of your Holy Church: Come to us now in power and stir up those gifts among your faithful people in the Diocese of Springfield, that we may without shame, fear, or fatigue announce to those around us the good news of your coming Kingdom, and in our common life bear winsome witness to the same, that the world may know that you are making all things new, and that we are your disciples; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, ever one God. Amen.

Traditional

Holy Spirit of God, who hast poured thy love into our hearts and granted us diverse gifts for the building up of thy Holy Church: Come to us now in power and stir up those gifts among thy faithful people in the Diocese of Springfield, that we may without shame, fear, or fatigue announce to those around us the good news of thy coming kingdom, and in our common life bear winsome witness to the same, that the world may know that thou makest all things new, and that we are thy disciples; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Father, ever one God. Amen.

For Use by Individuals, Families, and/or Small Groups

(from the website, fullhomelydivinity.org)

The nine days from Ascension Day to the Eve of Pentecost are the original novena--nine days of prayer. Before he ascended, Jesus ordered the disciples not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there to be baptized by the Holy Spirit. After his Ascension, they returned to the upper room in Jerusalem where they devoted themselves to prayer. These last days of the Great Fifty Days of Easter can be a time for us to prepare for the celebration of Pentecost. As we anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit, this can be a time to pray for renewal in the Spirit and a time to reflect on the gifts which the Spirit bestows on the Church. The prayer for the newly baptized, p. 308, in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer is the traditional prayer for the seven gifts of the Spirit, based on the prophecy of Isaiah 11:2-3. This prayer could be the basis for daily reflection on the gifts of the Spirit in the days between the Ascension and Pentecost and the following adaptation of it could be used daily as a simplified novena.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sin, and have raised us to the new life of grace in your Son Jesus Christ. Sustain us, O Lord, in the gifts of your Spirit: an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

Or, here is a fuller novena, based on the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit. It may be used at the conclusion of the Daily Office or as a separate act of devotion.

A Novena for the Gifts of the Spirit

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire.

Thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love.

Enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace.

Keep far our foes, give peace at home:
where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee with both to be but One,
that through the ages all along,
this may be our endless song:

praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymnal 1982, #504

Come, great Paraclete, Father of the poor, Comforter of the blest, fulfill the promise of our Savior who would not leave us as orphans. Enter our minds and hearts as you descended on the day of Pentecost upon the Mother of Jesus and upon his Apostles. Grant that every member of the Church may have a part in those gifts which were bestowed that day. O Holy Spirit, giver of every good and perfect gift, may the Father's will be done in us and through us, and may you, O mighty Spirit, equal to the Father and the Son in Being and majesty, be praised and glorified forever and ever. Amen.

Here may be added any of the following prayers: Hail Mary, Trisagion, Kyrie eleison, Gloria Patri, concluding with the prayer appropriate to the day of the novena.

First Day

Come, O Holy Spirit, the Lord and Life giver: Take up your dwelling within my soul and make of it your sacred temple. Make me live by grace as an adopted child of God. Pervade all the energies of my soul, and create in me a fountain of living water springing up into life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives, and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons, now and forever. Amen.

Second Day (May 6) - Wisdom

Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to me the mysteries of divine things, their greatness, and power, and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond all the transient joys and satisfactions of the mortal world. Show me the way by which I may be able to attain to them and participate in them forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Third Day (May 7) - Understanding

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten my mind, that I may know and believe all of the mysteries of salvation and discern your hand at work in the world. Teach me to see with your eyes that I may apply my heart unto wisdom in this life and be made worthy to attain to the vision glorious in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with

you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Fourth Day (May 8) - Counsel

Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do your holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good, turn it away from all that is evil, and direct me by the path of him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life to the goal of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Fifth Day (May 9) - Fortitude

Come, O Spirit of Fortitude, and give courage to my soul. Make my heart strong in all trials and in all distress, generously pouring strength into it that I may be able to resist the allure of the world, the flesh, and the devil; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Sixth Day (May 10) - Knowledge

Come, O Spirit of Knowledge, and make me understand the emptiness and chaos of life without you. Give me grace to recognize the goodness of the whole creation and to honor the Creator by using the world only for your glory and for the benefit and the salvation of all whom you have made; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Seventh Day (May 11) - Piety

Come, O Spirit of Piety, possess my heart; incline it to a true faith in you, to a holy love of you, my God, that with my whole being I may seek you, and find you to be my best, my truest joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Eighth Day (May 12) - Holy Awe [Fear]

Come, O Spirit of Holy Awe, penetrate my inmost heart, that I may set you, my Lord and God, before my face forever. In joy and wonder may I be made worthy to appear before the pure eyes of your divine Majesty and behold your glory face to face in the heaven of heavens, where you live and reign in the unity of the Ever-blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

Ninth Day (May 13)

Come, O Holy Comforter, come in all your fullness and power. Enrich us in our poverty, inflame us in our feebleness, melt our hearts with your love. Make us wholly yours, until your gifts are ours and we are lost in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons, now and forever. Amen.

Conclude with the Our Father and the following collect.

Holy Spirit of God, you have poured your love into our hearts and granted us a diversity of gifts for the building up of your Holy Church: Come to us now in power and stir up those gifts among your faithful people in the Diocese of Springfield, that we may without shame, fear, or fatigue announce to those around us the good news of your coming Kingdom, and in our common life bear winsome witness to the same, that the world may know that you are making all things new and that we are your disciples; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, ever one God. Amen.

St. Matthew's Schedule

Ascension to Pentecost prayer events in response to the Bishop's call to a wave of prayer for revival and renewal of the mission of the Diocese.

Ascension will be celebrated at 6:30 on May 5. Christ the King will host, the joint choir will sing, and Fr. Dave and Fr. Stormer will share leadership of the service.

- Friday 5/6--Morning Prayer and Novena at 7AM.
- Saturday 5/7--Evening Prayer and Novena at 5PM.
- Sunday 5/8 --Standard service schedule with Novena prayed at 9:30. Evening Prayer at 5:00 PM.
- Monday 5/9--Morning Prayer and Novena at 7AM.
- Tuesday 5/10--Morning Prayer and Novena at 7AM. Eucharist at Noon.
- Wednesday 5/11--Moring Prayer and Novena at 7AM. Eucharist at 5:30PM.
- Thursday 5/12--Morning Prayer and Novena at 7:30AM.
- Friday 5/13--Morning Prayer and Novena at 7AM.
- Saturday 5/14--Ordination of David Wells to the Sacred Order of Priests (St. Paul's Cathedral) at 11AM. Vigil of Pentecost (with CTK) at St. Matthew's at 5:30PM. A wine and cheese fellowship hour will follow the vigil.
- Sunday 5/15--Pentecost. Standard schedule with Novena prayed at 9:30. Evening Prayer at 5:00PM.

Please plan on attending as many of these times of prayer as you can. If you are not able to be present, please set aside time to pray for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our Diocese and Parish.