

## Come, Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts  
of your faithful, and enkindle in  
them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they  
shall be created And you shall  
renew the face of the earth.  
O God, who has taught the hearts  
of the faithful by the light of the  
Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift  
of the same Spirit we may be  
always truly wise and ever  
rejoice in his consolation.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Praying the offering of self

Lord Jesus,  
you told your friends  
not to worry about the future.  
You showed them  
how to have the attitude of  
simple trust  
that young children have,  
so that they could place  
themselves into the caring hands  
of your Father.  
And so I ask for the power of  
your Spirit that I may remain  
positive throughout all that is  
ordinary in my daily life.  
I know that your touch  
can change people and situations,  
and so I ask you to join me in  
offering to our Father  
not only the good things of this  
day but also the suffering and

sacrifices that I want to offer  
cheerfully and lovingly,  
and in a quiet and hidden way.  
And so may any difficulties  
and frustration and pain of this  
day be transformed in your  
presence for the benefit of other  
people. Amen

## The living heritage of our faith

God our Father,  
if I could trace back  
through the last two thousand  
years,  
marking out routes  
from Jesus himself  
and then through people  
whose faith has touched others  
and so reached me,  
I would be astounded  
by the individuals I would  
encounter.  
I give thanks, Father,  
for all those people  
over two thousand years  
who have inspired others  
and played their part  
in passing on  
to generation after generation  
the living heritage of their faith.  
Especially I give thanks  
for those who lived their faith  
through difficulties  
and hardship and persecution.  
I pray, Father, that I may grow  
in your faith and love  
through good times and bad.  
Amen

### The Man Born Blind

As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbours and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "[So] how were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see."

And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see."

So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." [But] others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this

your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes."

We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything."

They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?"  
Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.

### Open my eyes and ears

Lord Jesus,  
I ask you to open my eyes  
as you did with the blind man  
so that I may really see.  
Tune my ears  
as you did with the man who was deaf  
and dumb, so that I may really hear  
what you are saying to me.

May the many experiences of my  
senses  
remind me to be aware of others  
and of all that is around me.

May all that I experience  
lead me closer to you.

Lord, we ask you to open our eyes  
that we may value and appreciate all  
people,  
recognising what we have in common  
rather than focusing  
on what our differences might be.

Inspire us to distinguish  
between what is important  
and what is not,  
and open our minds and hearts  
that we may always be people of good  
will who bring life and joy to others.

Amen

### God in my daily life

God to enfold me,  
God to surround me,  
God in my speaking,  
God in my thinking.

God in my sleeping,  
God in my waking,  
God in my watching,  
God in my hoping.  
God in my life,  
God in my lips,  
God in my soul,  
God in my heart.  
God in my sufficing,  
God in my slumber,  
God in my ever-living soul,  
God in mine eternity.

(Carmina Gadelica)

### Christ be behind me

Lord, I commit my failures  
as well as my successes  
into your hands,  
and I bring for your healing  
the people and the situations,  
the wrongs and the hurts  
of the past.  
Give me courage, strength and  
generosity  
to let go and move on,  
leaving the past behind me,  
and living the present to the full.  
Lead me always to be positive  
as I 'entrust the past to your mercy,  
the present to your love,  
and the future to your providence'.

St Augustine

### Breathing deeply in faith

O God,  
teach me  
to breathe deeply  
in faith.

(Søren Kierkegaard)

### The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of God,  
have mercy on me,  
a sinner.

