

Day One: "The Whole of Creation Awaits Fulfillment"

Sign of the Cross.

Introductory Prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and all will be reborn...and you will renew the face of the earth. Holy Spirit, open our eyes, and calm our minds. Fill our memories of the Father's love, of the Son's unceasing prayer, of the world and of your own presence within us. Holy Spirit, give us faith. Holy Spirit, reveal to us the truth of the Father's unfailing promise, purpose, and plan; of the Son's victory and risen presence; the truth about ourselves--sinful yet children beloved of God. Holy Spirit, give us hope. Holy Spirit, give us peace; peace with God and peace with all people. Kindle my desire for you. Strengthen our wills to live and serve. Teach us and lead us where you will. Holy Spirit, give us love. Amen."

Scripture Reading:

A letter from St. Paul to the Romans (8:18-23,26)

"...All that we suffer in the present time is nothing in comparison with the glory which is destined to be disclosed for us, for the whole creation is waiting with eagerness for the children of God to be revealed. It was not for its own purposes that creation had frustration imposed on it, but for the purposes of him who imposed it--with the intention that the whole creation itself might be freed from its slavery to corruption and brought into the same glorious freedom as the children of God. We are all aware that the whole creation, until this time, has been groaning in labor pains. And not only that: we, too, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we are groaning inside ourselves, waiting with eagerness for our bodies to be set free."

Response:

Psalm 104: 24, 27-35

"How manifold are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them. All the earth is full of your creatures; They all look to you to give them food in due time.

When you give it to them they gather it; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

If you hide your face, they are dismayed; if you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord be glad in his works!

He who looks upon the earth, and it trembles; who touches the mountains, and the smoke!

I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God while I live.

Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the Lord.

May sinners cease from the earth, and may the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul! Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen."

Brief Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

"Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that this same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of your grace and love. Grant us:

- *the Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever;*
- *the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;*
- *the Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first the Kingdom;*
- *the Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;*
- *the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness;*
- *the Spirit of Piety that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;*
- *the Spirit of Fear that we may be filled with loving reverence toward you.*

Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen."

Final Prayer:

"Spirit of God you brought order out of the chaos of the beginning of the universe. In a yet more remarkable way you brought peace and order among the Lord's disciples, shaken by his death, startled by his resurrection and mystified by his Ascension after their commission to convert the world. Help us relive their days of prayer in openness to your sanctifying action as we prayerfully commemorate their preparation for the first Pentecost. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, God forever and ever. Amen."

Closing Hymn

*"Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest,
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou have made.*

*O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou gift of God send from on high.
Thou fount of life and fire of Love,
The soul's anointing from above.*

*Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From Thy clear celestial height,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.*

*Come, Thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou Light of all that live!*

*Thou on those who evermore,
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold Gifts descend.*

*Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end."*

Sign of the Cross.

Day Two: "Christ's Promise to Send the Paraclete"

Sign of the Cross.

Introductory Prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and all will be reborn...and you will renew the face of the earth. Holy Spirit, open our eyes, and calm our minds. Fill our memories of the Father's love, of the Son's unceasing prayer, of the world and of your own presence within us. Holy Spirit, give us faith. Holy Spirit, reveal to us the truth of the Father's unfailing promise, purpose, and plan; of the Son's victory and risen presence; the truth about ourselves--sinful yet children beloved of God. Holy Spirit, give us hope. Holy Spirit, give us peace; peace with God and peace with all people. Kindle my desire for you. Strengthen our wills to live and serve. Teach us and lead us where you will. Holy Spirit, give us love. Amen."

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the gospel of John (14:15-17,26-27)

"If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Paraclete to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth whom the world can never accept since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. ...The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

Response:

"Come, Holy Spirit, and from heaven direct on us the rays of your light. Come, Father of the poor; come, giver of God's gifts; Come, light of the hearts of all.

Kindly Paraclete, in your gracious visits to our souls you bring relief and consolation.

If we are weary with toil, you bring us ease; in the heat of temptation, your grace refreshes us; if sorrowful, your words console us.

Light most blessed, shine on the hearts of your faithful--even into their darkest corners; for without your aid they can do nothing good, and everything is sinful.

Wash clean the sinful soul, rain down your grace on the parched soul and heal the injured soul. Soften the hard heart, cherish and warm the ice-cold heart, and give direction to the wayward.

Give your seven holy gifts to your faithful, for their trust is in you. Give them reward for their virtuous acts; give them a death that ensures salvation; give them unending bliss. Amen."

Brief Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

"Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that this same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of your grace and love. Grant us:

- *the Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever;*
- *the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;*
- *the Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first the Kingdom;*
- *the Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;*
- *the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness;*
- *the Spirit of Piety that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;*
- *the Spirit of Fear that we may be filled with loving reverence toward you.*

Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen."

Final Prayer:

"Lord Jesus! The promise of your coming kept our Jewish forbearers full of hope through almost 2000 years of painful waiting. Your fulfillment of your promise to send the Holy Spirit to live within your followers has kept your persecuted Church alive and true to you for another 2000 years. Open each of us to the Spirit's presence so that we will always be one with that Church in its fidelity to you and your truth, for you are our Lord forever and ever. Amen."

Closing Hymn

*"Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest,
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou have made.*

*O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou gift of God send from on high.
Thou fount of life and fire of Love,
The soul's anointing from above.*

*Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From Thy clear celestial height,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.*

*Come, Thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou Light of all that live!*

*Thou on those who evermore,
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold Gifts descend.*

*Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end."*

Sign of the Cross.

Day Three: "The Spirit, The Soul of Christ's Body, The Church"

Sign of the Cross.

Introductory Prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and all will be reborn...and you will renew the face of the earth. Holy Spirit, open our eyes, and calm our minds. Fill our memories of the Father's love, of the Son's unceasing prayer, of the world and of your own presence within us. Holy Spirit, give us faith. Holy Spirit, reveal to us the truth of the Father's unfailing promise, purpose, and plan; of the Son's victory and risen presence; the truth about ourselves--sinful yet children beloved of God. Holy Spirit, give us hope. Holy Spirit, give us peace; peace with God and peace with all people. Kindle my desire for you. Strengthen our wills to live and serve. Teach us and lead us where you will. Holy Spirit, give us love. Amen."

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (12:12-14, 27)

"As with the human body which is a unity although it has many parts--all the parts of the body, though many, still making up one single body--so it is with Christ. We were baptized into one body in a single spirit, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as free persons, and we were all given the same Spirit to drink. And indeed the body consists not of one member but of many. ...Now Christ's body is yourselves, each of you with a part to play in the whole."

Response:

Psalm 34:12-23

"Come, children, hear me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Which of you desires life, and takes delight in prosperous days?

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile; Turn from evil, and do good; seek peace, and follow after it.

The Lord has eyes for the just, and ears for their cry.

The Lord confronts the evildoer, to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.

When the just cry out, the Lord hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; and those who are crushed in the spirit he saves.

Many are the troubles of the just man, but out of them all the Lord delivers him; He watches over all his bones; not one of them shall be broken.

Vice slays the wicked, and the enemies of the just pay for their guilt.

But the Lord redeems the lives of his servants; No one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen."

Brief Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

"Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that this same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of your grace and love. Grant us:

- *the Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever;*
- *the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;*
- *the Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first the Kingdom;*
- *the Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;*
- *the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness;*
- *the Spirit of Piety that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;*
- *the Spirit of Fear that we may be filled with loving reverence toward you.*

Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen."

Final Prayer:

"Father! Through your Son you invite all men and women to become members of your family, brothers and sisters of Jesus, who, together with him, call you Abba, Father. We have accepted that invitation by our baptism. As the fruit of that sacrament may we allow the Spirit dwelling within us to draw us into that oneness of faith, trust and love with Christ to whom our destiny calls us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Closing Hymn

*"Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest,
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou have made.*

*O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou gift of God send from on high.
Thou fount of life and fire of Love,
The soul's anointing from above.*

*Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From Thy clear celestial height,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.*

*Come, Thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou Light of all that live!*

*Thou on those who evermore,
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold Gifts descend.*

*Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end."*

Sign of the Cross.

Day Four: "The Dignity of the Christian"

Sign of the Cross.

Introductory Prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and all will be reborn...and you will renew the face of the earth. Holy Spirit, open our eyes, and calm our minds. Fill our memories of the Father's love, of the Son's unceasing prayer, of the world and of your own presence within us. Holy Spirit, give us faith. Holy Spirit, reveal to us the truth of the Father's unfailing promise, purpose, and plan; of the Son's victory and risen presence; the truth about ourselves--sinful yet children beloved of God. Holy Spirit, give us hope. Holy Spirit, give us peace; peace with God and peace with all people. Kindle my desire for you. Strengthen our wills to live and serve. Teach us and lead us where you will. Holy Spirit, give us love. Amen."

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (3:16-17) Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:14-17)

"Do you not realize that you are a temple of God with the Spirit of God living in you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy that person, because God's temple is holy; and you are that temple. ... All who are guided by the spirit of God are sons and daughters of God; for what you received was not the spirit of slavery to bring you back into fear; you received the spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit Himself joins with our spirit to bear witness that we are children of God. And if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, provided that we share his suffering, so as to share his glory."

Response:

"Heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of truth, present in all places and filling all things, treasury of blessings and giver of life;

Come and dwell in us, cleanse us of every stain and save our souls, O gracious Lord."

Brief Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

"Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that this same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of your grace and love. Grant us:

- the Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever;*
- the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;*
- the Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first the Kingdom;*
- the Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;*

- *the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness;*
- *the Spirit of Piety that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;*
- *the Spirit of Fear that we may be filled with loving reverence toward you.*

Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen."

Final Prayer:

"Oh Divine Trinity! In this age of explosive scientific achievement, we hold ourselves in low esteem before the idols our science has created. We have used the gifts of that achievement to enable our mutual hatreds to make ours the bloodiest and most lustful century of human history. In our guilt we have learned to despise each other and ourselves. Help us to heed the words of St. Paul and see in ourselves and each other the dignity that is ours as temples of your Holy Spirit, to be loved by one another as each of us is loved by Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Closing Hymn

*"Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest,
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou have made.*

*O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou gift of God send from on high.
Thou fount of life and fire of Love,
The soul's anointing from above.*

*Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From Thy clear celestial height,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.*

*Come, Thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou Light of all that live!*

*Thou on those who evermore,
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold Gifts descend.*

*Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end."*

Sign of the Cross.

Day Five: "Gifted to Serve and Build Others Up"

Sign of the Cross.

Introductory Prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and all will be reborn...and you will renew the face of the earth. Holy Spirit, open our eyes, and calm our minds. Fill our memories of the Father's love, of the Son's unceasing prayer, of the world and of your own presence within us. Holy Spirit, give us faith. Holy Spirit, reveal to us the truth of the Father's unfailing promise, purpose, and plan; of the Son's victory and risen presence; the truth about ourselves--sinful yet children beloved of God. Holy Spirit, give us hope. Holy Spirit, give us peace; peace with God and peace with all people. Kindle my desire for you. Strengthen our wills to live and serve. Teach us and lead us where you will. Holy Spirit, give us love. Amen."

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (12:4-7, 31; 13:13)

"There are many gifts, but it is always the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at work in them all. The particular manifestation of the Spirit granted to each one is to be used for the general good. ... Set your mind on the higher gifts. And now I am going to put before you the best way of all. And now I am going to put before you the best way of all. ... As it is, these remain: faith, hope and love, the three of them; and the greatest of them is love."

Response:

"Your Spirit, Lord is truth: May it make us free.

Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is fire: May it enkindle us with love.

Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is gentleness: May it renew the depths of our hearts.

Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is prayer: May it open our hearts to give praise.

Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, fills the whole universe: May it live among us forever.

Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is life: May it raise us up on the last day.

Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!"

Brief Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

"Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that this same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of your grace and love. Grant us:

- *the Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever;*
- *the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;*
- *the Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first the Kingdom;*
- *the Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;*
- *the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness;*
- *the Spirit of Piety that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;*
- *the Spirit of Fear that we may be filled with loving reverence toward you.*

Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen."

Final Prayer:

"Father! With a wisdom and love beyond our comprehension you invite each of us through your Holy Spirit to participate in the work of bringing your creation to its final destiny. Grant us the grace to set aside some time to become aware of the Spirit's quiet voice guiding our daily choices and giving us the courage to carry out your loving will as it is revealed to us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Closing Hymn

*"Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest,
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou have made.*

*O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou gift of God send from on high.
Thou fount of life and fire of Love,
The soul's anointing from above.*

*Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From Thy clear celestial height,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.*

*Come, Thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou Light of all that live!*

*Thou on those who evermore,
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold Gifts descend.*

*Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end."*

Sign of the Cross.

Day Six: "Human Weakness and Sinfulness"

Sign of the Cross.

Introductory Prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and all will be reborn...and you will renew the face of the earth. Holy Spirit, open our eyes, and calm our minds. Fill our memories of the Father's love, of the Son's unceasing prayer, of the world and of your own presence within us. Holy Spirit, give us faith. Holy Spirit, reveal to us the truth of the Father's unfailing promise, purpose, and plan; of the Son's victory and risen presence; the truth about ourselves--sinful yet children beloved of God. Holy Spirit, give us hope. Holy Spirit, give us peace; peace with God and peace with all people. Kindle my desire for you. Strengthen our wills to live and serve. Teach us and lead us where you will. Holy Spirit, give us love. Amen."

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (7:15-20;8:26-27)

"I do not understand my own behavior; I do not act as I mean to, but I do things that I hate. While I am acting as I do not want to, ... it is not myself acting, but the sin which lives in me--in my natural self, that is--for though the will to do what is good is in me, the power to do it is not: the good thing I want to do, I never do: the evil thing which I do not want--that is what I do. But every time I do what I do not want to, then it is not myself acting, but the sin that lives in me. ...the Spirit, too comes to help us in our weakness, for, when we do not know how to pray properly, then the spirit personally makes our petitions for us in groans that cannot be put into words; and he who can see into all hearts knows what the spirit means because the prayers that the Spirit makes for God's holy people are always in accordance with the mind of God."

Response:

"Yahweh, my heart has no lofty ambitions, my eyes do not look high.

I am not concerned with great affairs or marvels beyond my scope.

Enough for me to keep my soul tranquil and quiet like a child in its mother's arms, as content as a child that has been weaned.

Israel, rely on Yahweh, now and for always!"

Brief Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

"Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that this same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of your grace and love. Grant us:

- *the Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever;*
- *the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;*
- *the Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first the Kingdom;*
- *the Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;*
- *the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness;*
- *the Spirit of Piety that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;*
- *the Spirit of Fear that we may be filled with loving reverence toward you.*

Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen."

Final Prayer:

"Father! In that daily perfect sacrifice prophesied by your servant Malachi, we profess that 'all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father.' In our pride we have fallen from your grace. We are too weak to rise from our wretchedness, too blind even to be aware of our fallen state. By the power of your Spirit, glorify yourself and lead us to our destiny by bringing about in us that gratuitous recreation offered to us through and in Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen."

Closing Hymn

*"Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest,
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou have made.*

*O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou gift of God send from on high.
Thou fount of life and fire of Love,
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From Thy clear celestial height,
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Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou Light of all that live!*

*Thou on those who evermore,
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold Gifts descend.*

*Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end."*

Sign of the Cross.

Day Seven: "Christian Growth in the Freedom that Love Gives"

Sign of the Cross.

Introductory Prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and all will be reborn...and you will renew the face of the earth. Holy Spirit, open our eyes, and calm our minds. Fill our memories of the Father's love, of the Son's unceasing prayer, of the world and of your own presence within us. Holy Spirit, give us faith. Holy Spirit, reveal to us the truth of the Father's unfailing promise, purpose, and plan; of the Son's victory and risen presence; the truth about ourselves--sinful yet children beloved of God. Holy Spirit, give us hope. Holy Spirit, give us peace; peace with God and peace with all people. Kindle my desire for you. Strengthen our wills to live and serve. Teach us and lead us where you will. Holy Spirit, give us love. Amen."

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians (5:1, 13-26)

"Christ set us free, so that we should remain free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be fastened again to the yoke of slavery. ...After all, ...you were called to be free; do not use your freedom as an opening for self-indulgence, but be servants to one another in love, since the whole of the Law is summarized in the one commandment: You must 'love your neighbor as yourself.' If you go snapping at one another and tearing one another to pieces, take care! You will be eaten up by one another. Instead, I tell you, be guided by the Spirit, and you will no longer yield to self-indulgence; the desires of self-indulgence are always in opposition to the spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are in opposition to self-indulgence: they are opposites, one against the other ... Since we are living by the Spirit, let our behavior be guided by the Spirit and let us not be conceited or provocative or envious of one another."

Response:

*"Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy;*

*Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy;*

*Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy;*

*Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy;*

*Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy." St. Augustine*

Brief Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

"Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that this same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of your grace and love. Grant us:

- *the Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever;*
- *the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;*
- *the Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first the Kingdom;*
- *the Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;*
- *the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness;*
- *the Spirit of Piety that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;*
- *the Spirit of Fear that we may be filled with loving reverence toward you.*

Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen."

Final Prayer:

"Father! In your infinite wisdom you have called us to remain in you as your Son is in you, and thus live in freedom as your sons and daughters. By the guidance of your Holy Spirit dwelling in us, may we use our freedom to seek and follow your desires and cease making our pursuit of freedom an opportunity for self-indulgence. Empower us to make loving choices, to respect all life and to live up to our dignity as your sons and daughters, redeemed with the Blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Closing Hymn

*"Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest,
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou have made.*

*O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou gift of God send from on high.
Thou fount of life and fire of Love,
The soul's anointing from above.*

*Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From Thy clear celestial height,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.*

*Come, Thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou Light of all that live!*

*Thou on those who evermore,
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold Gifts descend.*

*Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end."*

Sign of the Cross.

Day Eight: "The Spirit's Love Gifts Us with Knowledge, Understanding, and Wisdom"

Sign of the Cross.

Introductory Prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and all will be reborn...and you will renew the face of the earth. Holy Spirit, open our eyes, and calm our minds. Fill our memories of the Father's love, of the Son's unceasing prayer, of the world and of your own presence within us. Holy Spirit, give us faith. Holy Spirit, reveal to us the truth of the Father's unfailing promise, purpose, and plan; of the Son's victory and risen presence; the truth about ourselves--sinful yet children beloved of God. Holy Spirit, give us hope. Holy Spirit, give us peace; peace with God and peace with all people. Kindle my desire for you. Strengthen our wills to live and serve. Teach us and lead us where you will. Holy Spirit, give us love. Amen."

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (2:9-15)

"God has given revelation through the Spirit, for the Spirit explores the depths of everything, even the depths of God. After all, is there anyone who knows the qualities of anyone except his own spirit, within him; and in the same way, nobody knows the qualities of God except the spirit of God. Now, the Spirit we have received is not the spirit of the world but God's own Spirit, so that we may understand the lavish gifts God has given us. And these are what we speak of, not in the terms taught by human philosophy, but in terms taught by the Spirit, fitting spiritual language to spiritual things. The natural person has no room for the gifts of God's Spirit; to him that are folly; he cannot recognize them, because their value can be assessed only in the Spirit. The spiritual person, on the other hand, can assess the value of everything, and his own value cannot be assessed by anybody else."

Response:

*"Spirit of wisdom, Spirit of understanding, Spirit of adoration,
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!"*

*Spirit of strength, Spirit of knowledge, Spirit of joy,
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!"*

*Spirit of love, Spirit of peace, Spirit of jubilation,
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!"*

*Spirit of willing service, Spirit of goodness, Spirit of gentleness,
Come to us, Spirit of the Lord!"*

Brief Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

"Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that this same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of your grace and love. Grant us:

- *the Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever;*
- *the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;*
- *the Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first the Kingdom;*
- *the Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;*
- *the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness;*
- *the Spirit of Piety that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;*
- *the Spirit of Fear that we may be filled with loving reverence toward you.*

Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen."

Final Prayer:

"Father! Each day many voices speak to our ears and to our hearts: the voices of our natural desires, the voices of our peers and our culture, the voice of the media, the voice of evil and the voice of your Holy Spirit. Strengthen us, each day, in the silence of our hearts, to increase our capacity to listen and discern the voice of your Spirit, to do what He asks of us and to understand the gifts He freely gives us. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Closing Hymn

*"Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest,
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou have made.*

*O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou gift of God send from on high.
Thou fount of life and fire of Love,
The soul's anointing from above.*

*Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From Thy clear celestial height,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.*

*Come, Thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou Light of all that live!*

*Thou on those who evermore,
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold Gifts descend.*

*Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end."*

Sign of the Cross.

Day Nine: "Sent With the Power to Reconcile"

Sign of the Cross.

Introductory Prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and all will be reborn...and you will renew the face of the earth. Holy Spirit, open our eyes, and calm our minds. Fill our memories of the Father's love, of the Son's unceasing prayer, of the world and of your own presence within us. Holy Spirit, give us faith. Holy Spirit, reveal to us the truth of the Father's unfailing promise, purpose, and plan; of the Son's victory and risen presence; the truth about ourselves--sinful yet children beloved of God. Holy Spirit, give us hope. Holy Spirit, give us peace; peace with God and peace with all people. Kindle my desire for you. Strengthen our wills to live and serve. Teach us and lead us where you will. Holy Spirit, give us love. Amen."

Scripture Reading:

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (5:20; 6:3-7)

"So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were urging you through us, and in the name of Christ we appeal to you to be reconciled to God. ...In everything we prove ourselves authentic servants of God; by resolute perseverance in times of hardships, difficulties and distress; when we are flogged or sent to prison or mobbed; laboring, sleepless, starving in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness; in the Holy Spirit, in a love free of affectation."

Response:

"That day, you will say: 'I give thanks to you, Yahweh, you were angry with me but your anger is appeased and you have given me consolation.'

See now, he is the God of my salvation. I have trust now and no fear, for Yahweh is my strength, my song, he is my salvation. And you will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

That day, you will say: 'Give thanks to Yahweh, call his name aloud. Proclaim his deeds to the people, declare his name sublime.'

Sing of Yahweh, for he has done marvelous things, let them be made known to the world. Cry out with joy and gladness, you dwellers in Zion, for great in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel."

Brief Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

"Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that this same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of your grace and love. Grant us:

- *the Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever;*
- *the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth;*
- *the Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first the Kingdom;*
- *the Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;*
- *the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness;*
- *the Spirit of Piety that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;*
- *the Spirit of Fear that we may be filled with loving reverence toward you.*

Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen."

Final Prayer:

"Father! Ours is a century in which more men, women, and children have perished at the hands of their brothers and sisters than in all the other centuries combined. Our greed, our fears, our anger and our hatred have made us enemies of one another and of you, our loving God. Open our hearts to accept your forgiveness for our sins of hatred and violence. Strengthen us to offer that same forgiveness to those who, we feel, have offended us, for merciful forgiveness is the essence of your love revealed in your Son. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Closing Hymn

*"Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest,
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou have made.*

*O Comforter, to Thee we cry,
Thou gift of God send from on high.
Thou fount of life and fire of Love,
The soul's anointing from above.*

*Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
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*Thou on those who evermore,
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold Gifts descend.*

*Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end."*

Sign of the Cross.
