

Building Kingdom Relationships

An All Saints Church Prayer Vigil



July 10 – 11, 2021
8:00am to 8:00am

All Saints Church
Chevy Chase, MD

A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.

John 13:34–35

A Prayer of St. Augustine

Remember, Christian soul, that thou hast this day, and every day of thy life:

God to glorify.
Jesus to imitate.
A soul to save.
A body to mortify.
Sins to repent of.
Virtues to acquire.
Hell to avoid.
Heaven to gain.
Eternity to prepare for.
Time to profit by.
Neighbors to edify.
The world to despise.
Devils to combat.
Passions to subdue.
Death, perhaps, to suffer.
Judgment to undergo.

Amen.

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Introduction from the Rector

The Apostle Paul writes: "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

Ephesians 4:1-6

Dear Vigil Pilgrim,

Read the Holy Spirit inspired words of the Apostle Paul above. Read them as if you were breathing them deeply. Go slowly focusing on each word and each phrase. Understand genuinely that this is how the Lord God wishes for us to relate to one another as His people and as citizens of His Kingdom. This is how we are to relate to one another in Christ Jesus, setting aside all other manners of relationship modeled by mere human values and strictures.

Nothing of this passage comports with the ways of the society, culture, or political realm around us. These are words, insights, and inspirations of Divinity, given to us as Holy Scripture that we might know the mind and heart of our Savior Jesus, to whom Paul dedicated his very being. They are words calling us to be head-turning in our loving relationships with all others. **We are to imitate Jesus, to be so different as to cause people to tilt their heads in wonder, drop their guards in trust, and surrender control in new found comfort and liberation.** Our imitation of Jesus is often the gateway for others to enter into Christ as the Holy Spirit brings transformation, forgiveness, love, and joy to them — perhaps for the first time ever. Jesus said: "I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you." John 13:15

It is often spoken that the people living today are more divided than at any time before. This is not true. People lacking the fullness of the Holy Spirit have been divisive, plotting, scheming, warring, and opposing one another since the time of Fred Flintstone. The exalting of our own desires and golden calves have broken God's people from the first pages of the Bible. Nothing has changed for those who ignore the Holy Spirit or who swirl the culture with the Kingdom. The operative dynamic is not the divisions among people, but our willful or unrecognized divisions with God. Our recovery comes when we embrace the teachings and ways of Jesus, the Son of God, who came to show us the ways of His Kingdom.

As you pray this Vigil, seek the complete and total surrender of your own will and desires in favor of those of the Lord. Then seek the same for all others by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to tenderize, marinate, or fortify all hearts to be fertile ground for the growing of the Kingdom of God. Pray that each of us and all of us together will grow in Kingdom-like relationships of love, unity, selflessness, and joy. Pray that we might truly be crucified with Christ, so that we no longer live, but that Jesus lives in us.

In the togetherness that only He can bring,

Ed+

About this Prayer Guide

Using the Prayer Guide

This Booklet is designed to aid and inspire you as you come to God in prayer. We hope that God will use it to focus your heart and mind on Jesus Himself, as only our Lord can bring unity, love, humility, and compassionate commitment to one another. He is our one King who has brought many diverse people into one Church that will last for all eternity. May Jesus Himself guide us as individuals and a church family into deeper intimacy with Him and with each other!

At a steady pace, you should be able to pray through this Prayer Guide in about an hour, but do not feel the need to rush. You may focus more on the themes that stir your heart most and simply end when the hour is over, or you may wish to continue your prayers even after the clock has chimed. It is best, however, if you begin with the Opening Reflections and finish with the Closing Reflections as they provide an important framework for our prayers.

For this Vigil, we have once again incorporated art and music into our prayers. Take some time to mediate upon the works of art – their colors, symbols, figures, stories, etc. – as they may inspire your thoughts and prayers. For the Sacred Music, simply click on the link provided, and your device should play the music automatically. Please listen or sing as the Spirit leads.

The Prayer Guide is divided into six main sections with themes, readings, and prayers based on the six statements of the Resolution on Kingdom Relationships approved by the Vestry in May 2021. Each theme is an important theological value that turns us from our self-centeredness, draws us to Christ, and unites us together in love. At the end of each section, please pause to pray from these themes and readings as God leads you. Ultimately, pray that God would truly make us a Kingdom Church that pursues Kingdom Values within Kingdom Relationships.

Acknowledgments

This Prayer Vigil would not be possible without the work of numerous parishioners, whose prayers, ideas, and labor are invaluable. Special thanks to the Rev. Ed Kelaher for his wonderful introduction; Cynthia Bryant, Shireen David, Nancy Gray, and Cindy Wade for compiling all the readings and prayers; Tam Bryfogle for providing artwork; Peter Crisafulli for providing musical selections; and Dan Buckingham who began our Prayer Vigil ministry.

May God Bless You and Our Parish Greatly as We Pray Today!

All Scripture citations are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted. Prayers are taken from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) unless otherwise noted.

Opening Reflections

The Baptismal Covenant (BCP)

Q: Do you believe in God the Father?

A: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Q: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

A: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Q: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

A: I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Q: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

A: I will, with God's help.

Q: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

A: I will, with God's help.

Q: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

A: I will, with God's help.

Q: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

A: I will, with God's help.

Q: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

A: I will, with God's help.

Opening Prayers

Prayer of St. Augustine (SAPB)

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that all my thoughts may be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that all 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. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer (BCP)

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, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Quiet Confidence (BCP)

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Song: Behold Our God

[\(Click Here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

1. Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Chorus: Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

2. Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach, the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

3. Who has felt the nails upon his hands?
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign (*chorus*)

You will reign forever
(let Your glory fill the Earth)

Praying for Unity and Love



Opening Verses for Meditation

Colossians 3:13-14

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

John 13:34-35

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.

Ephesians 4:2-6

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

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Lessons and Psalms

1 Corinthians 12:12 – 27

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Psalm 133

¹ Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!
For there the Lord has commanded the
blessing,
life forevermore.

John 17:20 – 26

Jesus prayed, “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they

may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Collects and Prayers

For the Human Family (BCP)

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Peace (BCP)

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

For the Unity of the Church (BCP)

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Hymn: Ubi Caritas et Amor

[\(Click Here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

Ubi caritas et amor
Ubi caritas, Deus ibi Est

Where charity and love,
Where there is love, God is there

Praying for the Holy Spirit to Lead Us



Opening Verses for Meditation

1 Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

Titus 3:5-6

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

John 14:16-17

Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 13:33-34

Jesus said, "Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

Lessons and Psalms

Galatians 5:16-24

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Psalm 139:1-10, 17-18, 23-24

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the
sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the
sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

John 16:12 – 15

Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Collects and Prayers

A Prayer on the Holy Spirit (Ruth Myers, *31 Days of Praise*)

Father, I'm so glad that the Holy Spirit is within me, to strengthen me with power in my inner person.... To make Christ real within me and flood my heart with his limitless love. Your Spirit enables me more and more to live in the light of my new identity in You. Thank you that he is using Your Word to deliver me from the viewpoints and values of the world, the flesh, and the devil... I praise You that Christ is not a weak person outside me but a tremendous power inside me...that through Him I am competent to cope with life to do Your will, love with Your love, to be more than a conqueror.

For Guidance (BCP)

O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget thee, but may remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Come, Holy Spirit! (Nancy Gray)

Come Holy Spirit! Pour your love into our individual and collective hearts. Empower us to love one another as Jesus has loved us.

Come Holy Spirit! We ask that you protect us from any attacks of the enemy. What the Lord builds Satan loves to destroy.

Come Holy Spirit! Lead us! We seek your wisdom, guidance, and discernment as we continue in unity of purpose, to build a Kingdom church in a world that is desperate to know your love.

Come Holy Spirit, Come! Amen!

A Song: Oh, Let the Son of God Enfold You

[\(Click Here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

1. Oh Let The Son Of God Enfold You
With His Spirit And His Love
Let Him Fill Your Heart And Satisfy Your Soul
Oh Let Him Have The Things That Hold You
And His Spirit Like A Dove
Will Descend Upon Your Life And Make You
Whole

Chorus: Jesus, Oh Jesus
Come And Fill Your Lambs
Jesus, Oh Jesus
Come And Fill Your Lambs

2. Oh Come And Sing This Song With
Gladness
As Your Hearts Are Filled With Joy
Lift Your Hands In Sweet Surrender To His
Name
Oh Give Him All Your Tears And Sadness
Give Him All Your Years Of Pain
And You'll Enter Into Life In Jesus' Name

Praying for Personal Transformation



Opening Verses for Meditation

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Jeremiah 17:14

Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.

Psalm 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Artwork: *The Repentant Magdalen* by Georges de la Tour, National Gallery of Art, Washington.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Lessons and Psalms

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Psalm 103:1 – 5, 8 – 14

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,

³who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and
mercy,

⁵who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the
eagle's.

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love.

⁹He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our
sins,

nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the
earth,

so great is his steadfast love toward those
who fear him;

¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions
from us.

¹³As a father shows compassion to his
children,

so the LORD shows compassion to those
who fear him.

¹⁴For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.

John 4:7-26

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Collects and Prayers

A Collect for the Renewal of Life (BCP)

O God, the King eternal, who dividest the day from the night and turnest the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep thy law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done thy will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when the night cometh, rejoice to give thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Transformation (From "A Celtic Service for Transformation")

Lord, I carry many burdens: the cruel words said; the humiliations inflicted; the regrets in my relationships; the failures in my life; the damage to your creation; the violence of the world; my fear of the future; my fear of those who are different; the hope that has been lost.

Lord, I lay my burdens down at the foot of the cross. I cannot bear them. I cannot carry them further.

Lord, I carry your light within me: your compassion, your kindness, your gentleness, your wisdom, your courage, your strength, your joy, your eternal love, your still small voice.

Lord, I am here at the foot of the cross. Empty me of all that keeps me from you. Fill me, Lord, in a new way.

May your Spirit live within me, and may I be obedient to the path you light before me. *Amen.*

A Song: O Come to the Altar

[\(Click Here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

1. Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus: O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

2. Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today, there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes, a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Bridge: Oh what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing Hallelujah, Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you found

Praying for a Christ-like Community



Opening Verses for Meditation

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Acts 2:42-44

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

Matthew 22:37 – 40

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Artwork: *The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs* probably by Fra Angelico, The National Gallery, London.

John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Romans 12:9-10

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Lessons and Psalms

Philippians 2:1 – 11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalms 33:12 – 22

¹²Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

¹³The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all the children of man;
¹⁴from where he sits enthroned he looks out
on all the inhabitants of the earth,
¹⁵he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.
¹⁶The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

¹⁷The war horse is a false hope for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.

¹⁸Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those
who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
¹⁹that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.

²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.

²¹For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.

²²Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon
us, even as we hope in you.

Acts 4:32 – 37

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Collects and Prayers

For the Unity of the Church (BCP)

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, even as thou and he are one: Grant that thy Church, being bound together in love and obedience to thee, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom thou didst send, the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Collect at the Prayers (BCP)

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Hymn: Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

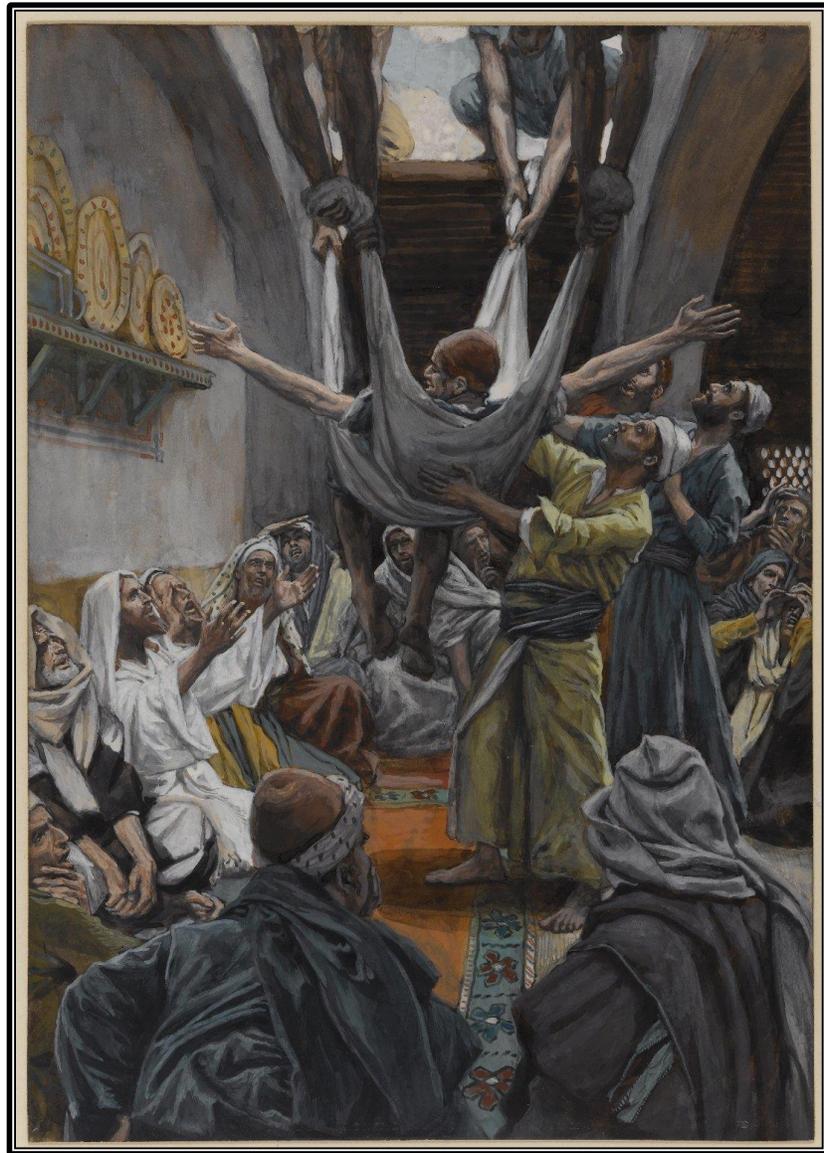
[\(Click Here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

1. Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

2. To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the Church in faith assembled,
to her midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

3. With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Praying for God's Healing Power



Opening Verses for Meditation

Ephesians 2:14

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

Psalms 133:1

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

Artwork: *The Palsied Man Let Down through the Roof* by James Tissot, Brooklyn Museum.

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Luke 7:50

And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Lessons and Psalms

Colossians 3:12 – 15

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Psalm 130

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

² O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.

⁸ And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

Mark 2:2 – 17

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some

of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

Collects and Prayers

In Times of Conflict (BCP)

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect for the Sunday Closest to July 6 (BCP)

O God, who hast taught us to keep all thy commandments by loving thee and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to thee with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For the Parish (BCP)

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Love (St. Augustine’s Prayer Book)

Create in me, gracious Lord, a spirit that is patient and kind. Keep me from all envy, boasting, arrogance, or rudeness; give me truth, wisdom, and understanding, that I may always rejoice in the truth and never in wrongdoing. Strengthen my trust in you, so that I can bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things. Through your strong leading and my own feeble effort, let me mature and grow from the childish to an adult. You, Lord Jesus, are love; make me to be more like you. Grant that your love may be my word and my wisdom, my great offering and my one accomplishment; for of all things, love is the greatest and it never comes to an end. *Amen.*

A Hymn: There is a Balm in Gilead

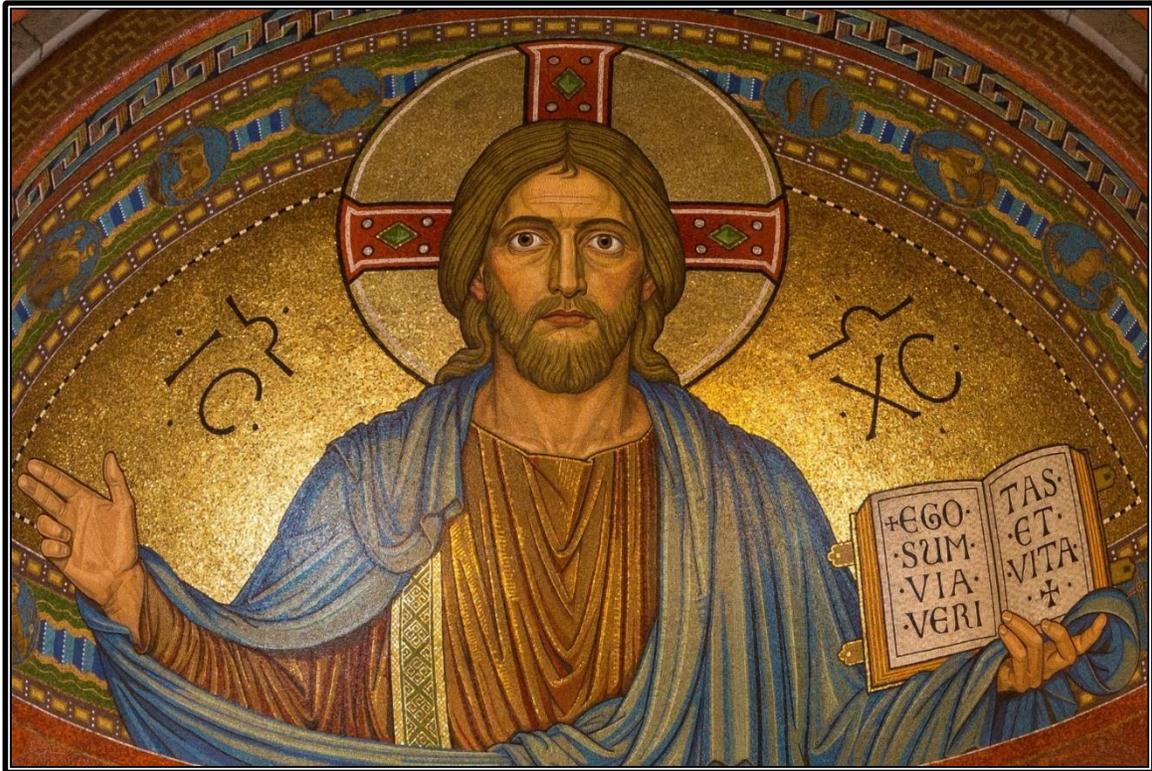
[\(Click Here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.

2. If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, "He died for all."

Praying for God's Wisdom



Opening Verses for Meditation

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Ephesians 1:17

[May] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory... give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Artwork is public domain; no attribution. The Latin reads, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6).

Lessons and Psalms

1 Kings 3:3 – 14

Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

Psalm 25:1 – 10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.

⁶Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love
and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his
testimonies.

John 16:12 – 15

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Collects and Prayers

A Prayer of St. Alcuin of York (*St. Augustine's Prayer Book*)

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts; eternal goodness, deliver us from evil; eternal power, be our support; eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance; eternal pity, have mercy upon us. That with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, we may seek thy face and be brought, through thine infinite mercy, to thy holy presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Church (BCP)

Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Guidance (BCP)

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path we may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

[\(Click Here to Listen on YouTube\)](#)

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me,
save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought
in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping,
thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom,
be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me,
and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father,
and I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling,
and I with thee one.

3. Be thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour,
be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter,
be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward,
great Power of my power.

4. Riches I heed not,
nor man's empty praise;
Be thou mine inheritance
now and always;
Be thou and thou only
the first in my heart::
O Sovereign of heaven,
my treasure thou art.

5. High King of heaven,
thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
Great heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Concluding Reflections

From the Catechism

The Church

Q. What is the Church?

A. The Church is the community of the New Covenant.

Q. How is the Church described in the Bible?

A. The Church is described as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members. It is called the People of God, the New Israel, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, and the pillar and ground of truth.

Q. How is the Church described in the creeds?

A. The Church is described as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

Q. Why is the Church described as one?

A. The Church is one, because it is one Body, under one Head, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q. Why is the Church described as holy?

A. The Church is holy, because the Holy Spirit dwells in it, consecrates its members, and guides them to do God's work.

Q. Why is the Church described as catholic?

A. The Church is catholic, because it proclaims the whole Faith to all people, to the end of time.

Q. Why is the Church described as apostolic?

A. The Church is apostolic, because it continues in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles and is sent to carry out Christ's mission to all people.

Q. What is the mission of the Church?

A. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Q. How does the Church pursue its mission?

A. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Q. Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?

A. The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

Closing Prayers

Psalm 100

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

² Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

³ Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Thanksgiving for the Mission of the Church (BCP)

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis ([click here to listen to it sung by parishioner Cynthia Bryant](#))

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

