

'Thy Kingdom Come'

A Vigil of Prayer for the Mission of the Church

The Gathering

'Veni Creator Spiritus' or another suitable chant may be sung

The Blessing of Light

At the Paschal Candle the officiant prays

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us,

All and clothe your people with power from on high. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.

Raised to your right hand on high
the ascended Christ shows the prints of love
and bestows on us the gifts of grace.

Joining our prayer with Mary and the disciples in the Upper Room
we await the gift of your Spirit, the life-giving power of Pentecost,
through whom we make Christ known to the world.

As your Spirit renews the face of the earth
empower us to proclaim your reign of love
and reveal your glory to all nations.

Source of freedom, giver of life,
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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

Each member of the congregation has a candle which is lit with a flame taken from the Paschal Candle

O gladsome light or another suitable chant could be sung

Opening Prayer

Let us pray

Almighty God,
your ascended Son has sent us into the world
to preach the good news of your kingdom:
inspire us with your Spirit
and fill our hearts with the fire of your love,
that all who hear your Word
may be drawn to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till they become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Words: Italian, Bianco da Siena d1434 Tr R. F. Littledale 1833-90
Music: *Down Ampney* R. Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

The Liturgy of the Word

Vigil of Readings

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel (37.1-14)

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (126)

R/. The Lord has indeed done great things for us.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter
and our tongue with songs of joy. **R/.**

Then said they among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
The Lord has indeed done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoiced. **R/.**

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, •
as the river beds of the desert.
Those who sow in tears
shall reap with songs of joy. **R/.**

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,
will come back with shouts of joy,
bearing their sheaves with them. **R/.**

Prayer

Lord God of our salvation,
you bring life from the darkest valley of death:
breathe your Spirit upon your Church,
that we may witness to your power to change and restore,
confident in your risen Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All Amen.

Second Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.12-14)

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (*Ps 104*)

**R/. Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
You are clothed with majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as in a garment. **R/.**

You laid the foundations of the earth,
that it never should move at any time.
You covered it with the deep like a garment;
the waters stood high above the hills. **R/.**

You send the springs into the brooks,
which run among the hills.
Beside them the birds of the air make their nests
and sing among the branches. **R/.**

You water the hills from your dwelling on high;
the earth is filled with the fruit of your works.
You make grass to grow for the cattle
and plants to meet our needs. **R/.**

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
Bless the Lord, O my soul. **R/.**

Prayer

Creator God,
your handmaid Mary gathered with the disciples in the Upper Room
to await the gift of your Holy Spirit.
Open our lips by that same Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Third Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (19.1-8)

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Canticle (*Ezekiel 36.24-26,28b*)

All The Spirit of God fills the whole world. Alleluia.

1 I will take you from the nations, "
and gather you from all the countries.
2 I will sprinkle clean water upon you, "
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.
3 A new heart I will give you, "
and put a new spirit within you,
4 And I will remove from your body the heart of stone "
and give you a heart of flesh.
5 You shall be my people, "
and I will be your God.

All The Spirit of God fills the whole world. Alleluia.

Prayer

God of mercy,
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and equipped for your service:
stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Your words are Spirit, Lord, and they are life. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (1.39-56)

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

A homily may be given here

Hymn

Sing we of the Blessed mother
Who received the angel's word,
And obedient to his summons
Bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the joys of Mary
At whose breast that child was fed
Who is Son of God eternal
And the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
Of the sword that pierced her through,
When beneath the cross of Jesus
She his weight of suffering knew,
Looked upon her Son and Saviour
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,
Saw the price of man's redemption
Paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary
When she saw the risen Lord,
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,
Waited on his promised word;
From on high the blazing glory
Of the Spirit's presence came,
Heavenly breath of God's own being,
Manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
When on earth her work was done,
And the Lord of all creation
Brought her to his heavenly home;
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
Raised on high and crowned with grace,
May your Son, the world's redeemer,
Grant us all to see his face.

Words: George B. Timms 1910 – 1997
Music: *Abbots Leigh* Cyril Taylor 1907-91

Reading

from 'Mary, Grace and Hope in Christ' –the Seattle Statement of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission 2006

“All the promises of God find their ‘Yes’ in Christ: that is why we offer the ‘Amen’ through him, to the glory of God” (2 Corinthians 1:20). God’s ‘Yes’ in Christ takes a distinctive and demanding form as it is addressed to Mary. The profound mystery of “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27) has a unique meaning for her. It enables her to speak the ‘Amen’ in which, through the Spirit’s overshadowing, God’s ‘Yes’ of new creation is inaugurated. As we have seen, this *fiat* of Mary was distinctive, in its openness to God’s Word, and in the path to the foot of the cross and beyond on which the Spirit led her. The Scriptures portray Mary as growing in her relationship with Christ: his sharing of her natural family (Luke 2:39) was transcended in her sharing of his eschatological family, those upon whom the Spirit is poured out (Acts 1:14, 2:1-4). Mary’s ‘Amen’ to God’s ‘Yes’ in Christ to her is thus both unique and a model for every disciple and for the life of the Church.

Responsory

Giving thanks for the work of the Holy Spirit in the Blessed Virgin Mary, we pray for the grace to grow in the power of the Spirit, that with her we may carry Christ into our nation and into our world.

In the beginning, at creation, you hovered over the water.

All Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth.

You breathed into Adam a breath of life.

All Come Holy Spirit, Breath of God, breathe in us today.

You anointed the prophets and kings.

**All Come Holy Spirit, anoint us for your service.
Send us anew to bring good news to the poor.**

To Elijah you came with the sound of a gentle breeze,
to the Apostles with signs of wind and flame.

All Come Holy Spirit, in your gentleness and might.

You are the living water, the river of life that brings fruitfulness and joy.

All Come Holy Spirit, flow freely in your Church.

You overshadowed Mary at the Annunciation.

**All Come Holy Spirit, overshadow us today with your power,
that the will of God may be accomplished in us and through us.**

You appeared as a dove at the baptism of Jesus Christ.

All Come Holy Spirit, fill the world anew with the gift of your peace.

You came at Pentecost fulfilling the promise of the Father. You filled the disciples of Jesus who had gathered in prayer and sent them out to preach the good news to every nation.

**All Come Holy Spirit, lead us anew to Jesus Christ.
May we be baptised with Holy Spirit and fire.**

You are the love of God poured into our hearts.

**All Come Holy Spirit, make us one. Fill us and empower us with your presence
that we may live in love as sons and daughters of God.**

Hymn

Filled with the Spirit's power with one accord
The infant church confessed its risen Lord;
O Holy Spirit, in the church today
No less your power of fellowship display.

Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,
That unity may be our great desire.
Give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,
And readiness in each to work for all.

Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace
In your strong care people of every race.
Like wind and fire with life among us move,
Till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.

Words: J. R. Peacy 1896-1971

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.
All **Amen.**

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.
All **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.
All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Regina Coeli may be sung