

ASCENSIONTIDE NOVENA TO THE HOLY GHOST

May 14 - 22, 2020

Adapted from the Saint Augustine's Prayer Book

The nine days from Ascension Day to the Eve of Pentecost are the original novena - nine days of prayer. Before he ascended, Jesus ordered the disciples not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the Holy Spirit. After his Ascension, they returned to the upper room in Jerusalem where they devoted themselves to prayer. These last days of the Great Fifty Days of Easter can be a time for us to prepare for the celebration of Pentecost. As we anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit, this can be a time to pray for renewal in the Spirit and a time to reflect on the gifts which the Spirit bestows on the Church.

This material may be used at the conclusion of the Daily Office or as a separate act of devotion. For a shortened devotion, begin at the prayer for the day and proceed through the final collect.

O Holy Spirit, my Lord and my God, I adore thee and humbly acknowledge here in thy sacred presence that I am nothing, and can do nothing, without thy operation within me. Come, great Paraclete, thou Father of the poor, thou Comforter of the blest, fulfill the promise of our Savior, who would not leave us as orphans, and enter my mind and heart as thou didst descend on the day of Pentecost upon the holy Mother of Jesus and upon his first disciples. Grant that I may have a part in those gifts which thou didst so prodigally bestow upon them.

Take from my heart all that is not pleasing to thee and make of it a worthy dwelling-place for Jesus. Illumine my mind, that I may see and understand the things that are for my eternal welfare. In flame my heart with pure love of the Father, that, cleansed from attachment to all unworthy objects, my whole life may be hidden with Jesus in God. Strengthen my will, that it may be conformable to the will of my Creator and guided by thy holy inspirations. Aid me to practice the heavenly virtues of humility, poverty and obedience which are taught me in the earthly life of Jesus.

Descend upon me, O mighty Spirit, that, inspired and encouraged by thee, I may faithfully fulfill the duties of my state in life, carry my daily cross with patience and courage, and accomplish the Father's will for me more perfectly. Make me, day by day, more holy and give to me that heavenly peace which the world cannot give.

O Holy Spirit, thou giver of every good and perfect gift, grant to me the intentions of this novena of prayer. May the Father's will be done in me and through me. And mayest thou, O mighty Spirit of the living God, be praised and glorified for ever and ever. Amen.

Veni Creator Spiritus - Hymnal 1982, 504

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire. Thou the anointing Spirit art, who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above is comfort, life, and fire of love. Enable with perpetual light the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face with the abundance of thy grace. Keep far our foes, give peace at home: where thou art guide, no ill can come.

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

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

Here may be added one or more of the following: Hail Mary; Trisagion; Kyrie Eleison; Gloria Patri.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Trisagion

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria Patri,

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The novena continues with the prayer appropriate to the day:

First Day after the Ascension, May 14

Come, O Holy Ghost, the Lord and Lifegiver; take up thy dwelling within my soul, and make of it thy sacred temple. Make me live by grace as an adopted son of God. Pervade all the energies of my soul, and create in me a fountain of living water springing up into life everlasting, thou who livest and reignest with the Father and the Son, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Second Day after the Ascension, May 15

Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, and power, and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Show me the way by which I may be able to attain to them, and possess them, and hold them hereafter, my own forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Father, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Third Day after the Ascension, May 16

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten my mind, that I may know and believe all of the mysteries of salvation, and may merit at last to see the eternal light in thy light; and in the light of glory to have the clear vision of thee and the Father and the Son, who liveth and reigneth, now and forever. Amen.

Fourth Day after the Ascension, May 17

Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do thy holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good, turn it away from all that is evil, and direct me by the path of thy commandments to the goal of eternal life; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Son, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Fifth Day after the Ascension, May 18

Come, O Spirit of Fortitude, and give courage to my soul. Make my heart strong in all trials and in all distress, pouring forth abundantly into it the gifts of strength, that I may be able to resist the attacks of the devil, through Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Father, now and forever. Amen.

Sixth Day after the Ascension, May 19

Come, O Spirit of Knowledge, and make me understand and despise the emptiness and nothingness of the world. Give me grace to use the world only for thy glory and the salvation of thy creatures. May I always be faithful in putting thy rewards before

every earthly gift, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Son, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Seventh Day after the Ascension, May 20

Come, O Spirit of Piety, possess my heart; incline it to a true faith in thee, to a holy love of thee, my God, that with my whole soul I may seek thee, and find thee my best, my truest joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveeth and reigneth with thee and the Father, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Eighth Day after the Ascension, May 21

Come, O Spirit of holy Fear, penetrate my inmost heart, that I may set thee, my Lord and God, before my face forever; and shun all things that can offend thee so that I may be made worthy to appear before the pure eyes of thy divine Majesty in the heaven of heavens, where thou livest and reignest in the unity of the Ever-blessed Trinity, world without end. Amen.

Ninth Day after the Ascension and Vigil of Pentecost, May 22

Come, O Holy Comforter, and grant me a relish for heavenly things. Produce in my soul the fruits of virtue, so that, being filled with all sweetness and joy in the pursuit of good, I may attain unto eternal blessedness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons, now and forever. Amen.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer and the adapted Collect for the Day of Pentecost

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.

O God, who didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.