

**Glory to the Father and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now
And shall be for ever. Amen.**

PRAYING

Silence is kept for several minutes, to allow people to pray for the 5 people they have chosen to pray for throughout the Novena. It may be appropriate to invite people to speak those names aloud if they wish to.

We meet your word in contemplation, mindful of your giving and our taking.

(Pause)

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We give you thanks for your abundant generosity in providing for our needs.

(Pause)

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer to you our prayers for agencies which provide food and shelter to those in need.

(Pause)

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you all who have no idea where their next meal is coming from.

(Pause)

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

Lord, we give thanks today for the churches in our Diocese who are consciously seeking to preserve and steward your wonderful creation. Gift them with enthusiasm and creativity, and may they share their passion for ecology with the wider community; gently reminding all they come into contact with that each of us has a responsibility to care for, and nurture your amazing creation. This we ask in Jesus name, Amen.

(Prayer written by Revd Susan Manners - Priest in Charge of the Stour Downs Benefice)

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with open hands to give away instead of guarding or hoarding.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with ideas for the rebalancing of wealth in our society.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with faith to trust you for enough.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**

DAILY WAITING

Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4).

This service is for use by individuals or groups and can be adapted to suit your context. Hymns, worship songs and additional prayers may be added as you wish. Italic text is intended as an instruction, plain text is to be read by a leader, bold text is to be read together. Since the theme of Thy Kingdom Come 2025 is The Lord's Prayer, these liturgies invite us to pray that prayer immediately after the Scripture reading, rather than during the Intercessions, to allow us to bring it into focus before we meditate on it in the Reflection.

The Reflections are taken from the Thy Kingdom Come 2025 Novena booklet by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, and the Intercessions include prayers from our June Prayer Calendar, written by people from around the Canterbury Diocese.

GATHERING

As you begin your time of prayer, take a moment of silence to remember and delight in the promise of the Holy Spirit Jesus gives to all his disciples. Read the following from John 14 together:

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth... On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Make a sign of being present to God and one another – light a candle, open a Bible, share the peace...

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we pray

And leave us not as orphans.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew us in body, mind and spirit

And send us out to be your presence in your world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

Pause for a few minutes in silence to welcome the leading of the Holy Spirit, and bring to mind the names of 5 people you will commit to praying for over the coming days.

CHANGING LIVES



CHANGED LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2025

DAY: 5

LISTENING: Matthew 6:25-34, NRSV

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord’s Prayer together: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours Now and for ever. Amen.**

REFLECTING

This is what enough looks like – and why it matters ‘Give us today our daily bread...’ Matthew 6:11 It took me a long while to grasp what this first specific ‘ask’ of the Lord’s Prayer is actually all about. There is a sense in which it can mean the bread of eternal life. It certainly takes on this meaning when we say it just before we receive Holy Communion, as is the tradition in most churches. But its basic meaning is altogether simpler. And very hard to live out. It means, ‘give me what I need for today and stop me wanting more than my share’. In which case it may be the most important and most radically challenging prayer we will ever say, especially in a world and in an economic system that trains us and expects us to want more – not just today’s bread, but tomorrow’s as well.

In the West many of us have so much more than enough. We don’t seem to mind if others go hungry, or if the whole planet burns because we want cheap meat each day and strawberries at Christmas. The whole human race urgently needs to learn what ‘enough’ looks like: so that the world is fed, but also in order for the planet to

be saved. This is the great and uncomfortable challenge of these words. Every time we say, ‘give us today our daily bread’, we are committing ourselves to inhabiting the world differently: recognising our need, but also acknowledging our interdependence with all our sisters and brothers across the world – and with the earth itself. Many people in the West worry that there aren’t so many younger people in our churches nowadays. Is it all too challenging, they wonder? I think the opposite. It’s not challenging enough. Younger people – maybe the five people we’re praying for – may be more excited by the call of the gospel when they see the clarity and challenge of following Jesus and living like Jesus and rise to the challenge of saying this prayer and trying to mean it. For if we could say these words and mean them, life would be changed. So we pray today for those who have no daily bread and for those who have far too much. Help us to change. We ask this for ourselves in all the compromises we live with, and for those for whom we are praying that they may encounter the radical challenge of the gospel.

Psalm 145:8-21, NRSV

8 The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
 9 The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.
 10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
 11 **They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,**
 12 to make known to all people your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, **and your dominion endures throughout all generations.** **The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.[d]**
 14 The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
 15 The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
 16 You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
 17 The Lord is just in all his ways
and kind in all his doings.
 18 The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
 19 He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.
 20 The Lord watches over all who love him,
But all the wicked he will destroy.
 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.