

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 with penitent hearts, grieving over our waywardness.

(Pause)

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

We give you thanks for your gifts of forgiveness and redemption.

(Pause)

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

We pray for the Church, for mercy where we have behaved unrighteously or hypocritically.

(Pause)

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

We bear before you all who feel the pain of wounds inflicted through trauma and abuse.

(Pause)

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

Loving God,

We thank you for all of the gifts you have provided to us through the Holy Spirit. May we value all your gifts,

Using them in loving service for others –

Both within the church and our wider communities.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

(Prayer written by Chris Knight - Reader-in-Training at St Peter-in-Thamet)

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with swift obedience when you correct us.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with courage to speak up when mistakes are made.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with healing for your Church.**

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

DAILY WAITING

CHANGING LIVES



CHANGED LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2025

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.

DAY: 6

LISTENING: 1 John 1:5-9, NRSV

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

We all get lost sometimes

'And forgive us our sins...' Matthew 6:12 1 The tricky word 'sin' is an update on the older word 'trespass'. (NB. I am using the words of the Lord's Prayer that are familiar, but the actual word in the Bible isn't 'sin' or 'trespass', but debt.) Many people and churches still use the version of the Lord's Prayer which speaks of trespasses rather than sins. Now 'trespass' is not a word we use much in everyday conversation. There is, however, one exception which may turn out to be quite helpful in learning what this petition of the Lord's Prayer means. 'Don't trespass on the grass,' and 'Trespassers will be prosecuted,' are still phrases we know. Trespass therefore means going where you shouldn't go. This is also a good way of explaining sin. It is about going in the wrong direction, of being in the wrong place, of finding yourself where you shouldn't be, of getting lost.

Sin, therefore, isn't just what we do wrong or say wrong (though it is this!), it can also be the wrong, hateful and selfish ideas which take hold of us and lead us down the wrong roads and poison our spirit – even if we don't actually act on the things we are thinking. Sin is deeper and more dangerous than just doing bad stuff. It is being completely lost. It is trespassing far from the path of goodness and peace that God maps out for us. And when you're lost, and when the place you're lost in is dark, dangerous, and all-consuming, then what you really need is someone to guide you home, someone who can shine a light that leads in the right direction. The whole of the Christian faith is about God's great love for us in Jesus Christ who

comes to a people – us! – who are walking in darkness and going the wrong way, and shining a great light. His death on the cross, His taking on Himself the consequences of all our trespassing, is the defeat of sin and death and darkness. Like the thief who cried out to Jesus on the cross, 'Jesus, remember me' (Luke 23:42), the Lord's Prayer teaches us to do the same: 'Forgive us our sins. Help us find the right way. Show us in Jesus the way that leads to life. Help us to follow.' Our penitence is the right response to God's amazing forgiveness. We walk His way with humble and grateful hearts. So we pray for penitent hearts; and because we know it is a stubborn lack of penitence and a hardening of heart that often get in the way of knowing and receiving Christ, we pray for those we are praying for to be able to stop and see where their lives are going in the wrong direction, turn around and seek the way of Christ.

Psalm 32:1-11, NRSV

- 1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- 2 Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- 3 While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- 6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.
- 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
- 8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- 9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.
- 10 Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
- 11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

**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.**