

Saturday 6th June – Pentecost, The Gift of the Spirit

Power of God, be our protection; Wisdom of God, be our guide; Word of God, be our inspiration; Shield of God, be our defence; Son of God, be our salvation; now and always. Amen

Saint Patrick's Breastplate, Book of Armagh, 9th century

Romans 8: 22-27 (NIV)

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning^(A) as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit,^(B) groan^(C) inwardly as we wait eagerly^(D) for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.^(E) ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved.^(E) But hope that is seen is no hope at all.^(G) Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.^(H)

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit^(I) himself intercedes for us^(J) through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts^(K) knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes^(L) for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Singing the Faith 400

- 1 Wind of God, dynamic Spirit,
 breathe upon our hearts today;
 that we may your power inherit,
 hear us, Spirit, as we pray:
 fill the vacuum that enslaves us —
 emptiness of heart and soul;
 and, through Jesus Christ who saves us,
 give us life and make us whole.

- 2 Voice of God, prophetic Spirit,
 speak to every heart today
 to encourage or prohibit,
 urging action or delay:
 clear the vagueness which impedes us —
 come, enlighten mind and soul;
 and, through Jesus Christ who leads us,
 teach the truth that makes us whole.

- 3 Fire of God, volcanic Spirit,
 burn within our hearts today;
 cleanse our sin — may we exhibit
 holiness in every way:
 purge the squalidness that shames us,
 soils the body, taints the soul;
 and through Jesus Christ who claims us,
 purify us, make us whole.

Michael Seward (*b.*
1932)

Psalm 139: 1-18; 23-24

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

**2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

3 For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**4 You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.**

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.

6 Where can I go then from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

**7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

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

**9 Even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand hold me fast.**

10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me
and the light around me turn to night,'

**11 Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.**

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

14 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

**15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;
already in your book were all my members written,**

16 As day by day they were fashioned
when as yet there was none of them.

17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

19 Search me out, O God, and know my heart;
try me and examine my thoughts.

**20 See if there is any way of wickedness in me
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

From *Common Worship*

Prayers

Dear God, at the start of each day, help us to recognize you above all else. Enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see you, and notice how you're at work through our lives. Give us wisdom to make the best choices, fill us with a desire to seek after you more than anything else in this world. Let your Spirit and power breathe in us, through us, again, fresh and new. Thank you that you are greater than anything we may face in our day. Thank you that your presence goes with us, and that your joy is never dependent on our circumstances, but it is our true and lasting strength, no matter what we're up against. We ask that your peace lead us, that it would guard our hearts and minds in you. We ask for your grace to cover our lives this day. We love you Lord...we need you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

- Debbie McDaniel

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Save us from the time of trial

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,

Now and for ever. Amen