



Prayer of Vocation

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. (Isaiah 50:4)

CENTERING PRAYER

Gracious God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of Life, have mercy on us. Reveal yourself in all things, to all things, and through all things. Grant us the gift of becoming a community of the Incarnation—the mystery of the Word made flesh who sees and celebrates Good News in hard places. Give us the tongue of a teacher to sustain the weary with a word, and mobilize leaders from all walks of life to love their city and seek its peace with the Gospel of Jesus.

PROPHETIC VISION

Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The crooked shall be made straight and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

INVOCATION OF THE SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit. Show us the way of the Lord that we might see your salvation and seek your peace in all things. Quiet our troubled souls and teach us how to pray. Be our guide, our counselor, our advocate, and our defender.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

Lord of Life, baptize us again in the sea of your love where we release our useless fears and relax into your mercy. Inside this new love we die to all that is false. By your power made perfect in weakness, awaken us to the mystery of life. Speak to us again the truth of our deepest identity hidden in you: “You are my child whom I love, with you I am well pleased.”

CALL TO CREATION

YHWH, in the beginning you formed us from the dust of the ground and breathed into us the breath of life. Breathe on us, in us and through us now that we might embody our most sacred vocation—to become fully human and be one with you and all creation.

Breathe God’s Name—YHWH **[Silence]**

CALL TO
PEACEMAKING

Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace and a sign of your unity in the world that we might act, reflect and discern like you. May our wounds and the wounds of this world become wombs of new creation, bearing seeds of new life. Free us, O Lord, to be midwives to the holy in all things. Transform our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh.

Where there is blindness, call forth the gift of sight.

Where there is voicelessness, call forth the gift of voice.

Where there is despair, call forth the gift of joy.

Where there is isolation, call forth the gift of community.

Where there is fear and violence of any kind, call forth the gift of peace born of your love, and make us a community of the Incarnation who sees and celebrates you in all things, even here, even now.

OUR LORD'S
PRAYER

Our Father who is in heaven, holy is your name. May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us because She has anointed us to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

We pray all of this in the name of the Father who is for us, the Son who is with us, and the Spirit who unites us all in the never-ending dance of Love. Amen.

*The Benediction scripture has been paraphrased from several translations. In particular, we enjoy the freedom to imagine the Holy Spirit in feminine gender—inspired by the numerous feminine as well as masculine images of God in Scripture. In doing so, our paraphrase reflects what many English translations do not, that is, that the pronoun used for the Spirit in the early Greek texts was not masculine but neuter.