

Day Four: The Gift of Fortitude

Opening Songs:

How Great is Our God

The splendor of the King Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice All the earth rejoice

He wraps Himself in light And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice And trembles at His voice

How great is our God Sing with me
How great is our God And all will see how great How great is our God

And age to age He stands And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb The Lion and the Lamb

*Name above all names Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing How great is our God*

Build My Life

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe We live for You

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe We live for You We live for You

Holy there is no one like You There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
**And fill me with Your heart And lead me in Your love to those around
me**

***I will build my life upon Your love It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone And I will not be shaken***

CCLI Song # 7070345
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Pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit:

On my knees I, before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, offer myself, soul and body to you, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of your purity, the unerring keenness of your justice and the might of your love. You are the strength

and light of my soul. In you I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve you by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against you. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for your light, and listen to your voice, and follow your gracious inspirations. I cling to you and give myself to you and ask you by your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced feet of Jesus and looking at his five wounds, and trusting in his Precious Blood and adoring his opened side and stricken heart, I implore you, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, to keep me in your grace that I may never sin against you. Give me grace O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to you always and everywhere, "Speak Lord for your servant is listening." Amen

Saint Intercession: Bl. Peter Donders (1809-1887) was a Dutch Redemptorist priest who served in Suriname for 45 years. He fought for the rights of enslaved people, evangelized indigenous people, and nursed the sick during an epidemic (to which he briefly succumbed). He spent his last three decades serving in a leper colony and advocating with the authorities to obtain better care for his people.

L: Blessed Peter Donders **All:** Pray for us.

Pope Francis shares

"Remember: seek the unity which is the work of the Holy Spirit and do not be afraid of diversity. The breathing of Christians draws in the new air of the Holy Spirit and then exhales it upon the world: it is the prayer of praise and missionary outreach."

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 24:3-4

By wisdom the house shall be built, and by prudence it shall be strengthened. By instruction the storerooms shall be filled with all precious and most beautiful wealth. A wise man is strong; and a knowing man, stout and valiant.

The Word of Lord.

Response: Lord you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple

Response: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it give light to the eyes.

Response: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding forever. The decrees of the Lord are truth, and all of them just. They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold.

Response: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Reflection – Joyce Jones

Fortitude

Are you growing weary from trials? The Holy Spirit gives us supernatural courage to persist and overcome obstacles and difficulties. From this we learn that we really can trust Jesus and reach a good end despite how bad and lengthy the problems seem.

Pray Hail Mary, Our Father and 7 Glory Be's

Meditation: I believe that complete surrender of my life to God is the foundation to serenity. God has prepared for us many mansions. I do not look upon that promise as referring only to the after life. I do not look upon this life as something to be struggled through in order to get the rewards of the next life. I believe that the kingdom of God has begun within us and we can enjoy eternal life here and now.

Final Prayer:

Come and fill me, O blessed Spirit of Fortitude. Protect my soul in times of trouble and adversity. Sustain my efforts in holiness, strengthen me in my weakness, and give me courage against all the assaults and temptations of my enemies that I may not be overcome and separated from you, my God and greatest good. Amen.

Closing Song:

Build Your Kingdom Here

Come set Your rule and reign In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now We are Your church We need Your pow'r in us

We seek Your kingdom first We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives For You're our joy and prize
To see the captives' hearts released The hurt the sick the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause
We are Your church We pray revive this earth

Build Your kingdom here Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere Build Your kingdom here we pray

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church We are the hope on earth