

Day Seven: The Gift of Counsel

Opening Songs:

Open Up the Heavens

We've waited for this day We're gathered in Your Name Calling out to You
Your glory like a fire awakening desire Will burn our hearts with truth

You're the reason we're here You're the reason we're singing

Open up the heavens we want to see You
Open up the floodgates a mighty river
Flowing from Your heart Filling every part of our praise

Your presence in this place Your glory on our face We're looking to the sky
Descending like a cloud You're standing with us now Lord unveil our eyes

Show us show us Your glory Show us show us Your power
Show us show us Your glory Lord

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Shout to the Lord

My Jesus my Saviour Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort my shelter Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath all that I am Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord All the earth let us sing Power and majesty Praise to the King
Mountains bow down And the seas will roar At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy At the work of Your hands Forever I'll love You
Forever I'll stand Nothing compares to the promise I have in You

CCLI Song # 1406918 Darlene Zschech
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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: St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli (1587-1651) was a wealthy widow when a plague broke out in Genoa. She housed many of the sick in her home; running out of space, she rented a vacant convent, then built more housing. Though the plague ended, Virginia's hospital continued serving hundreds of sick people, and the religious order Virginia founded in the midst of all this continues to this day, Sisters of Our Lady of Refuge in Mount Cavalry

L: St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli **All:** Pray for us.

Pope Francis shares

"The communion and unity that exists between Christians show the richness of the gifts distributed by the Holy Spirit. Let us remember this well, being part of the Church means being united to Christ and receiving from Him the divine life that makes us live as Christians; it means remaining united to the Pope and the Bishops who are instruments of unity and communion, and it also means overcoming

personal interests and divisions, in order to understand each other better, to harmonize the variety and richness of each member; in a word, to love God and the people who are next to us more, in the family, in the parish, in the associations. In order for the Body to live, all its limbs must be united. Unity is beyond all conflict.”

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26

In the same way, the Spirit, too, comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what the intention of the Spirit are, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God’s will.

Response: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

I will extol you, O Lord, for you drew me near and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you brought me up from the netherworld, you preserved me from among those going down into the pit.

Response: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Sing praise to the Lord you faithful ones, and give thanks to His Holy name. For His anger lasts but a moment, a lifetime His good will. At nightfall weeping enters, but with dawn rejoicing.

Response: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Hear O Lord and have pity on me O Lord, be my helper. You changed my mourning into dancing O Lord, my God, forever will I give you thanks.

Response: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Reflection

Counsel

Are you ever indecisive? Do you feel hesitant and full of doubts; about your current choices or your future? The Holy Spirit wants to guide you and instruct you so that you can make the right decisions. My favorite prayer for this is: “Lord, open the doors of opportunities in the way I should go, and close all doors that lead elsewhere.” And He does!

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

Meditation: Once I am “born of the Spirit” the Spirit is my life’s breath. Within me is the life of life! It is the same life that throughout the ages has helped God’s children though peril, adversity, and sorrow. I must try never to doubt or worry, but follow where the Life of the Spirit leads. How often am I unaware of how God goes before me to prepare the way, to soften the heart, or to overrule resentment? As the life of the Spirit grows, natural desires are placed within a new horizon- to be governed by the gift of counsel.

Final Prayer:

Come and fill me, O Spirit of Counsel. Help me and guide me in all my ways that I may always do Your holy will. Incline my heart to prefer only what is good, turn it away from all that is evil, and direct me by the straight path of Your commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long. Amen.

Closing Song:

Whom Shall I Fear

You hear me when I call You are my morning song
Though darkness fills the night It cannot hide the light Whom shall I fear
You crush the enemy underneath my feet You are my sword and shield
Though troubles linger still Whom shall I fear

I know Who goes before me I know Who stands behind
The God of angel armies is always by my side
The One who reigns forever He is a friend of mine
The God of angel armies is always by my side

My strength is in Your name For You alone can save
You will deliver me Yours is the victory
Whom shall I fear Whom shall I fear

(And) nothing formed against me shall stand
You hold the whole world in Your hands I'm holding on to Your promises
You are faithful You are faithful