

Pastoral,  
Opening Prayers: Almighty God, who alone  
Jesus Christ has graciously granted us new  
Life, who has created us by your power,  
has created us by your love, and sustained  
us by your Spirit, hear and heal us as  
we pray.

O Holy Spirit, who enables us to  
know you, like your Holy Apostles  
long ago, let our tongues speak in a  
language that all people can understand.  
Let our lives flourish with the fruit  
of your presence, our churches pulse  
with the lifeblood of your power.

Measure our hearts, O God, with the  
ruler of love. Grant us the humility  
to know that, when measured by your  
love, our hearts are too centered in self,  
too weak in faith, too small indeed.  
In your great mercy cleanse our pride  
by him who is meek, ~~and~~ remove  
our deeds to him who is strong, foster  
our faith to him who is Lord.

Hear our petitions for those who need you  
in the secret chambers of their souls. Give  
strength to the weak and humility to the  
strong; give generosity to the gifted  
and patience to the afflicted. Show hope  
to the despairing and comfort to the  
bereaved.

Keep us ever in your favor. Hold us  
always in your care. Bless our hearts  
with holy favor. Prune us to our needs  
in prayer.

O God, who has made us  
messengers of peace in a world  
of strife, and messengers of  
strife in a world of false  
peace, make strong our hands,  
make clear our voices. Give  
us humility with firmness  
and insight with passion  
that we may fight not  
to conquer, but to redeem  
through Jesus Christ, our  
Lord. Amen