

Opening prayer: O God of all order and harmony, who brought yourself close to us in your son, Jesus Christ that we might draw near to you with faith; come into this hour of worship, that we, hearing you speak in these accounts, may tune our lives to yours. In the name and through the power of our Saviour Christ, we pray. Amen.

Pastoral prayer: Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has graciously granted us new life, who has created us by your power, re-created us by your love, and sustained us by your Spirit, hear and heed us as we pray.

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

Measure our hearts, O Lord, with the rule of your love. Grant us the humility to know that, when measured by your love, our hearts are too centered on self, too weak in faith, too small in deed. In your great mercy cleanse our pride by him who is meek, harness our deeds to him who is strong, fasten 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. Bring hope to the despairing and comfort to the bereaved.

Keep us ever in your favor. Hold us always in your care. Bless our lips with holy favor. Drive us to our knees in prayer. For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord -