

Pilgrim's Guide Via de Cristo

(Way of Christ)

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To be on a Pilgrimage is to go through Christ to the Father under the impulse of the Holy Spirit, bringing others along with you.

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To You

To You, who walk with your soul filled by passing fancies and ideals;

To You, whom the world fascinates and draws;

To You, who feel the law of the flesh in your members;

To You, who feel a discontent with this world and who aspire to better things;

To You, a pilgrim, who does not have a lasting home on earth, we dedicated these pages. They who wrote them believed that they did so in the name of Christ, **Your King**.

Morning Offering

The psalmist once sang: "I offer my works to the King."

It is worthwhile to work for a king.

Offer your works each day to the King who gives joy to your youth.

Recall to mind the words of the Spanish Saint:
"I do not wish to work for a Lord who can die."

Serve the Immortal King of ages, the only one who deserves your total dedication. Each morning offer your day to God.

A Saint's Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love; for
it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

(St. Francis of Assisi)

Luther's Morning Prayer

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray you that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angels be with me, that the wicked Foe may have no power over me.

Amen

Morning Prayer

I offer all the prayers, works, joys and problems of this day to the Father, through the Son, my Lord and Brother, in union with the Holy Spirit.

I unite myself in spirit and prayer with all the Christians throughout the world. May the People of God witness the Good News of Christ in all places, at all times, today and forever. Amen

Morning Prayer

Night has passed to another day as we pray to the Lord of Lords, that we may know peace of mind and body through his love and mercy. Hear us God our Father, through Christ our Brother, in the Holy Spirit, whose praise we sing. Amen

Morning Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

All: To the Beginning of this day you have brought us, O Lord God Almighty. Preserve us now by your power so that throughout this whole day we may not fall into any sin; rather, that all our words, thoughts, and acts become part of your holy, providential plan. This we ask of you through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever. Amen

Prayer for Husband and Wife

Because we, husband and wife, are called to love one another as Christ loves and is loved by his Church; because the life of the Church, his Mystical Body, is nourished by the holiness of our marriage; and because our children, his tenderest branches are nourished likewise in that holiness.

We seek his help, pledged at the Marriage Feast of Cana and our own wedding, that our sorrows, our hardships, our countless daily irritations may be transformed into a loving gift to each other and to God; that our joys too, may be offered; that our marriage may become a prayer, an offering, a giving of the one thing which is ours to give, our life together, as husband and wife, father and mother and that the splendor of Christ's love, mirrored in us may draw others to the true life in him. Amen.

Prayer for the Individual

Because I am an individual, called to love others as Christ loved me, and because the life of the church is enriched by my servanthood, send me into the world in your name.

I seek your help, pledged at your ascension, when you promised to "be with us to the close of the age," that my sorrows, hardships, and countless daily irritations may be transformed into a loving gift to God, that my joy may be offered, and that my life may become a prayer, an offering, a giving of the one thing which, because of your redemption, is mine to give: my life. Use my life in your service, that by my witness, you may draw others to yourself.

By your power, enable me to give of myself, to encourage my neighbors; to assist in nurturing all children, thus participating in the discipling ministry of Baptism and teaching. Send your Holy Spirit to guide my speech and love. Amen.

Evening Prayer

O Lord, our God,

Because you have called us in love, forgive our failure to be loving.

Because you have called us in freedom, forgive our hesitancy to serve.

Use this night to refresh us with zest and desire to do good.

May this night not be darkened by the failures of the past week.

Let the hope you have given us in Christ shine brightly into the dawning of a new day.

Tomorrow help us to be born anew through the grace of your Word, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Amen.

The Evening Sufferages L = Leader; A = All

L: Lord, have mercy upon us.

A: Lord, have mercy upon us.

L: Christ, have mercy upon us.

A: Christ, have mercy upon us.

L: Lord, have mercy upon us.

A: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

Apostles' Creed (page 27)

L: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our Fathers:

A: And greatly to be praised and glorified forever.

L: Bless the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit;

A: We praise and magnify him forever.

L: Blessed are you, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:

A: And greatly to be praised, and glorified and highly exalted forever.

L: The Almighty and merciful Lord, bless and preserve us.

A: Amen

L: Vouchsafe, O Lord, this night;

A: To keep us without sin.

L: O Lord, have mercy upon us:

A: Have mercy upon us.

L: O Lord, let your mercy be upon us:

A: As our trust is in you,

L: Hear my prayer, O Lord:

A: And let my cry come unto you.

L: The Lord be with you.

A: And with your spirit.

L: Let us pray.

A: We give thanks to you, heavenly Father through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected us; and we implore you to forgive us all our sins, and the wrong which we have done, and by your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge concerning us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen.

L: Bless we the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

For the Ability to Forgive

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught me to pray:
"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us."

In your name
I am to repair the breach;
I am to mend the broken;
I am to welcome back the wanderer who returns.

Lord Jesus Christ,
help me to understand that this power is your power,
to be used for the sake of those for whom you died.

Help me to understand that I cannot turn away from
any who ask for forgiveness or need my forgiveness.

Help me to overcome any hindrance that would keep
me from sharing the fullness and the power of your
saving and forgiving grace.

I ask it in the power of your name. Amen.

Confession

It is hard for me, O God to confess my sins and not merely repeat well-worn phrases with which I try to cover my real guilt.

I am a sinner. Why is it so difficult for me to see this, Lord? Why am I so bothered with a few things I do wrong while I think nothing of my lack of trust in you? Why do I feel guilty when I do not live up to my own standards but hardly blush when I fail you? Why do I imitate those who are unholy instead of following the Christ? I must confess it is because I follow my own desires, because I am weak in the face of temptations, and without you I am nothing.

All I can do is plead mercy, O God. I cannot even hold up the honesty and fullness of my confession. All I can do is trust your love in Jesus Christ. I surely cannot trust my love for you or him. Hear me for the sake of Jesus Christ, who lived for me and died that in him I might live.

Forgive me, Father! Forgive me even this, my poor confession. I need your forgiveness for Christ's sake. Amen.

For Acceptance of Self

Father, teach me to trust the Spirit you have breathed into me. Give me the grace to believe your Word, by which I am made your child. Help me to understand that I belong to you, even though I am undeserving of your love.

Help me to see your judgment and mercy in the suffering and death and resurrection of my Lord Jesus Christ. Cause me to accept again the new life in Christ which you have given me by faith. Enable me to live without despair and without pride. Lead me to know with joy that you accept me as a whole human being.

Father, teach me one more thing. Show me that in this new life you give, I no longer have to build walls of fear to protect myself from others. Help me to live cheerfully and generously, so that others may receive you through Christ's Word, and work in me and begin to live in you. Bless me and keep me for Jesus' sake. Amen.

For Acceptance of Others

Forgive me, Father, for my unwillingness to share your gift of life with others.

My eyesight is so often faulty. I do not see others as you see them. I judge by my own standards and reject those who do not measure up.

My hearing is faulty, too. I listen to those who can help me, but do not hear those who need me.

Father, you see us all through the eyes of Jesus Christ and accept us for his sake. You hear us and know that we need your forgiveness and mercy.

Even so, Father, teach me your way of seeing and hearing your people in whatever circumstance I find them. Give me a full measure of understanding and compassion, so that my actions and words will reflect the fatherly love and mercy you have given me. Amen.

For Personal Reflection

Lord of my life, I know that my life is not my own. By your death and resurrection you made me your own. Help me to live under your direction, always ready to hear the call, "Follow Me;" always aware of your presence; always knowing that I have received the gift of your Spirit; always living so that others may receive your love and mercy through me.

It is not easy to ask for these things, Lord because I know I have much to give up. I can no longer pretend that my life is my own. My prayer is my surrender to your care and direction. I want to follow, Lord, but it is very hard. I will get very tired. I will make selfish mistakes. I will fail time and again. I will fall.

Show me again that there is love and forgiveness and mercy in your hand. Use me in spite of my reluctance, doubt and disobedience. Pour into me your good Spirit, so that I am not afraid to follow and fall and follow again. Amen.

Examination of Conscience

Leader:

My child: Think about your interior attitudes and disposition. Have your thoughts, your aspirations, your words, your actions of this day been worthy of one of my apostles?

Have your problems overcome you again today? How many times have you fallen? What was the reason? Think it over well.

Think about the means available to you that my grace may increase in you:

Congregational worship and Holy Communion morning offering, evening thanks, devotions, meditation, prayer, examination of conscience, altar or chapel visits, family prayer, blessings before meals, spiritual direction. Have you neglected to perform one or several of these means of sanctification? Why?

How long has it been since you have visited your spiritual director? When will you go?

And what about your serving? Couldn't you have been more generous - more courageous - more self-sacrificing - more cheerful?

With a little effort couldn't you have gotten rid of the obstacles which you found along the road?

Haven't you had the time to be a disciple? Listen to Me: isn't it true that for the things which really interest you, you do find the time? I who am your God would almost be satisfied if you would treat me as well as you treat any of your friends.

As my disciple, what have you done today that I may be better known, that I may be better loved?

Are you with me - or against me? At work - in your profession - at recreation - have you been my disciple? Would you have been proud to have me accompany you through the day?

Remember that the infidelities of the "faithful" are the infidelities which wound My heart most.

I count on you! on you!

And you, on whom or on what do you count?
(Continued next page)

My child: don't stop halfway. I search for your fire, your energy and your surrender. A Christian has a right to be enthusiastic. If you want to, you can. Tell me honestly: "Cost what it may, because it does cost, I shall live in your grace, Lord." Everything depends on your really wanting to.

Now speak to the Lord

All:

I, a sinner, put my trust in you, O Lord, and your many mercies. Accept me in the company of your Apostles by freely forgiving my offenses through Christ. Amen.

Examination of Conscience

In regard to myself, have I:

Through **Mediocrity**,

Excused myself from guilt because a sin is habitual, or caused by social pressure.

Acted because of whims and feeling.

Used time ineffectively.

Organized myself so intensely that I'm no longer capable of spontaneous generosity.

Through **Disorder** and **Lack of Planning**,

Used material possessions improperly.

Been weak in making and holding to decisions.

Lacked perseverance and logic in carrying things out.

Left work half-done, without serious reason.

Been discouraged by difficulties or setbacks.

Failed to take time for being alone, for reflection, for recollection.

Through **Pride** and **Vanity**

Been vain, praise-loving, proud, smug.

Indulged in allowing my feelings to be hurt.

Acted out of ambition or the desire to be noticed.

Failed to recognize my limits and accept them.

Made snap judgments and comments

to give the impression I know all about a subject.

In regard to others, have I:

Against Charity

Loved others selfishly; wanted to monopolize other's affections, been jealous.

Considered no one but myself.

Never felt real anguish for the misery of others.

Passed by, indifferent to other's troubles.

Had habitual contempt for others:

less educated people, people of different racial, national, or economic groups.

In any way stifled the personal development of another.

Sought to be respected without respecting others.

Often kept others waiting.

Not paid entire attention to a person speaking to me.

Talked too much of myself, and not given others a chance to express themselves.

Failed to try to understand others.

Out of selfishness or pride, expected to be served.

Failed to help a person in distress.

Seen only those whose friendship might prove profitable.

Abandoned my friends in their difficulties.

Said hurtful things.

Done harm, by remarks (false or true)
That blacken others' character.
Betrayed a trust; violated a confidence.
Given scandal by the split between the life
I lead and the principles I advertise as mine.

In regard to my family, have I:

In Family Matters

Made my family and its affairs my sole
occupation. Failed to be a full partner
and source of strength to my spouse.
Taken for my own use an unfair share of what
our family has (clothes, car, and free time).
Failed to respect the individuality of another,
even a child.
Expected more of a child than I have courage
to do myself.
Talked idly and indiscreetly about the faults of
those close to me.

(Continued next page)

In regard to the Church, have I:

By Thoughts

Thought of the church as a sect or party rather than as the mystical body of Christ.

Never read or reflected on the Holy Scriptures.

Not held myself responsible for my part in the inadequacy of Christians.

By Words

Spoken of the clergy as "them" instead of "us".

Criticized irresponsibly the leadership of the church, both clerical and lay.

Ignored the teaching authority of the church, replacing it with my own authority.

By Acts

Used church organizations to justify my own personal hang-ups.

Run away from trying to solve the church's internal problems.

Acted to support the church only when it met my approval.

By **Omission**

Not tried to make the church more vital.

Failed to contribute sacrificially for the material needs of the church.

Neglected to pray for those in authority.

Toward God, have I:

Waited for God to manifest himself, instead of looking for him in the realities of life.

Not relied on God to do the rest, after I've done all I can.

Not seen and loved God in other persons.

Not loved others in God.

Not thought of Jesus Christ as my close blood-brother; giving up trying to make him my model. Not made an effort to bear with him the sins of the world, especially those of my own social group.

Centered the Cross on my walls but not in my life.

Talked about Christ, without really trying to live the Gospel. Not found time to pray.

Prayed only to ask, never to adore,
never to thank, never to act as a member of the
mystical body, never to love.

Thought of spiritual life as something to do only
after everything else has been taken care of.

"Understand that from now on I consider you as
one of my faithful ones ... and the infidelities of
my faithful, these are the things that wound my
heart most deeply."

"From here on, **I am counting on you!**
And **you?**

On whom or on what do **you** count?"

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

* Or, He descended to the dead.

I Believe in God the Father

I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers.

He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil.

All this he does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey him.

(This is an) Explanation to the first article of the Apostles' Creed by Martin Luther.

I Believe in Jesus Christ

I believe that Jesus Christ - true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary - is my Lord.

At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person.

He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil - not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.

All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.

(This is an) Explanation to the second article of the Apostles' Creed by Martin Luther.

I Believe in the Holy Spirit

I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith.

In the same way, he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church day after day he fully forgives my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the last day he will raise me and all the dead and give me and all believers in Christ eternal life.

(This is an) Explanation to the third article of the Apostles' Creed by Martin Luther.

Remembrance of Baptism

Lord God, I am your child. I call you Father because you are my Father. You named me with your own holy name even before I could speak. You made me your own before I could move a hand to help or prevent you. You insisted on having me even though you knew the end of my life as well as its beginning, its shame as well as its glory, its failures as well as its achievements, its bad as well as its good.

Why, Father, should I persist in resisting you? Why should I insist on my own way instead of knowing your way of grace and love? Why should I obey my own whims instead of letting your grace in baptism have its way with me?

Forgive me, Father, for so often wandering into a far country away from you, your forgiveness, your joy, your promises, your love in Jesus Christ. Help me to live in the freedom of my baptism, by the faith you have given me, in the life which you daily renew by your gracious forgiveness.

I am baptized. I belong to you, God. Amen

Psalm 1

1 Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

6 for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

(NRSV)

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right
paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest
valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your
rod and your staff they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence
of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my
cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the
house of the Lord my whole life long.

(NRSV)

Psalm 100

1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

5 For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

(NRSV)

The Reunion Group

The Three-Day-Weekend is a source of many insights to those who take part in it. These insights vary widely according to the background and temperament of each individual, but one insight is almost universal - the value of sharing our Christian hopes and experience with brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Reunion Group is a voluntary meeting of friends to share with one another their efforts to live and grow in union with Christ. To be effective it must be open and relaxed. To be fruitful it must include a sharing of our own commitment to Christ (piety), our efforts to grow in our understanding of God's grace (study), and our efforts to share our knowledge and love of Christ with others according to a predetermined plan (apostolic action).

The Reunion Group is a friendship elevated to the highest level - that of being a permanent actual grace. The Reunion Group is by no means the only way to bring about the kind of sharing needed for growth in Christ. It is, however, an effective means. It is also a simple means with a single intent: "I long to see you and share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you - rather, what I wish is that we may be mutually encouraged by our common faith"(Romans 1: 11-12).

My Balanced Weekly Plan for Growing in God's Grace.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Phil 4:13)

Prayer: Come Holy Spirit, page 42

Our Piety

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."
(Matt 11:28)

1. With what spiritual aids have you nourished your vital union with Christ this week?

Congregational Worship/Communion

Morning Offering/Evening Thanks

Devotions, Meditation and Prayer

Examination of Conscience

Altar/Chapel Visit

Family Prayer

Blessing Before Meals

Spiritual Direction

Other

2. What was the moment you felt closest to Christ?

3. What is your plan for next week to deepen your piety?

Our Study

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. "(John 8:31)

4. What have you studied this week to better understand Jesus Christ and his mystical body, the church?

Adult Education Class of Congregation

Bible Study Course

Private Bible Study

Bible Commentaries

Books on the Christian Faith & Theology

Christian Periodicals

Pastor Guided Reading

Other

5. What was the most helpful Spiritual insight from your study?

6. What will be your plan for next week to enrich your study?

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Our Action

As the Father has sent me, so I send you. "

(John 20:21)

7. What have you done this week to share Christ with the world so that others might know his saving love?

How have you witnessed to the gospel in:

Family, workplace, profession, total environment.

In what way were you successful?

In what way were you disappointed?

8. What have you done to bear the burdens of others in obedience to Christ?

9. What was the moment of your most burning witness? most sacrificial service?

10. What is your plan for next week to enlarge your witness and service?

Plan a Reunion Group activity.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, page 42

De Colores

All in color, all in-color the fields love to dress
in all during the springtime.

All in color; all in color the birds have their
clothing that comes every season.

All in color; all in color the rainbow is vested
across the blue sky.

Refrain

All in color and so must all love be of every bright
color to make my heart cry. (Repeat)

Sings the rooster; sings the rooster with his quiri,
quiri, quiri, quiri, quiri.

And the cluck-hen; and the cluck hen with her
cara, cara, cars, cara, cara.

And the babe-chicks; and the babe-chicks with
their pio, pio, pio, pio, pi. (Refrain)

All in color; all in color we witness the sun-up
on clear and bright mornings.

All in color; all in color the sun gives its treasures
God's light to his children.

All in color; all in color the diamond will sparkle
when brought to the light. (Refrain)

De Colores

De colores, bright with colors the rainbow is splendid
with light and with promise.

De colores, bright with colors the birds of the air build
their nests in the branches.

De colores, bright with colors the fields are arrayed in
the glory of spring.

And a love bright with colors has found me with
others around me and makes my heart sing. (Repeat)
With rejoicing, with rejoicing in God let us live in his
life and his friendship.

With rejoicing, with rejoicing we'll bring him our own
lives and thousands of others.

Satisfying, satisfying the thirst of the true King who
never can die,

Shining out in the world's lonely night with the colorful
light of the love we live by. (Repeat)

Hear the rooster, hear the rooster at dawn crow his
warning, kari, kari, kari.

Gently calling, gently calling her brood, hear the hen
sing cara, cara, cara.

Hear the peeping, hear the peeping of chicks, pio, pio,
pio, pio, pi.

And a love bright with colors has found me with
others around me and makes my heart sing. (Repeat)

De Colores

De colores, de colores se visten los campos en la primavera.

De colores, de colores son los pajarillos que vienen de afuera.

De colores, de colores es el arco iris que vemos lucir. (Coro)

Coro

Y por eso los grandes amores de muchos colores me gustan a mi. (Si repite)

Canta el gallo, canta el gallo con el quiri, quiri, quiri, quiri, quiri.

La gallina, la gallina con el cara, cara, cara, cara, cara.

Los polluelos, los polluelos con el pio, pio, pio, pio, pi. (Coro)

De colores, de colores brillantes y finos se viste la aurora.

De colores, de colores son los mil reflejos que el sol atesora.

De colores, de colores se viste el diamante que vemos lucir. (Coro)

De Colores

De colores, de colores the fields love to dress in
all during the springtime.

De colores, de colores the birds have their
clothing that comes every season.

De colores, de colores the rainbow is vested
across the blue sky.

Chorus

De colores, and so must all love be of every
bright color to make my heart cry. (Repeat)

Sings the rooster; sings the rooster with his quiri,
quiri, quiri, quiri, quiri.

And the cluck-hen; and the cluck-hen with her
cara, cara, cara, cara, cara.

And the babe-chicks; and the babe-chicks with
their pio, pio, pio, pio, pi. (Chorus)

Canta el gallo, canta el gallo con el quiri, quiri,
quiri, quiri, quiri.

La gallina, la gallina con el cara, cara, cara, cara,
cara.

Los polluelos, los polluelos con el pio, pio, pio,
pio, pi.

Y por eso los grandes amores de muchos colores
me gustan a mi. (Se repite)

Come, Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructs the hearts of the faithful, grant, that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Meditation

I believe, Lord, that you are here present. Although my eyes do not see you, my faith senses you. Take any stray thoughts from my mind. Make me understand the truths which you wish to teach me in this meditation. Let me make up my mind to put them into practice. Your servant is listening; speak, Lord, to my soul.

Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, Lord God almighty, for all the benefits you have given to us, to you who live and reign forever and ever. Amen

I pray that all my intentions, actions and works of this day may be directed solely 'to the greater glory of God's Divine Majesty.

May the grace of God dwell always in me!

Psalm 99 - Cry Out with Joy

Composed by Joseph Gelineau

Arise, come to your God.
Sing him your songs of rejoicing.
Cry out with joy to the Lord all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy.

Arise, come to your God.
Sing him your songs of rejoicing.
Give glory to the Father Almighty.
To his Son, Jesus Christ the Lord.
To the Spirit who dwells in our hearts.

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Las Mananitas

1. How beautiful is this morning And our hearts
are light and gay; We sing God's song of blessing
And awaken you today.

Chorus: The sun is now appearing,
And as day begins anew;
Arise now and greet the morning that dawns with
joy for you.

2. How blessed is your birthday, And flowers
blooming everywhere; As baptismal waters
flowed, All the saints were singing there.

3. How I wish I were St. Peter. How I wish I were
St. John, As we sing our song of love, To you in
the early dawn.

4. So many stars in the heavens; All I need are
two for you.

One to greet you in the morning, And the other to
say adieu.

5. All around the flowers are blooming, As we're
coming here to sing; To make your life de colores
For true happiness we bring.