

Minister: Finally let us join in song to end our service.

1



Seek ye first the king - dom of God
Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,
and its right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be
add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain

2

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!



**Discernment — Prayer Meetings
for the Election of the
Xlth Bishop of Springfield**

ORDER OF PRAYER SERVICE

Minister: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All: And also with you.

Minister: This is the day that the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Minister: O Lord, open our lips

All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Minister: Give us the joy of your saving help

All: And sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

The minister says:

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving to God for his continual care of His people, to hear and receive God's holy word, and to pray for this Diocese and for the coming Election of a new bishop that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

All: Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator and redeemer of all; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world and in your great love fashioned us in your image. Now, through the deep waters of death, you have brought your people to new birth by raising your Son to life in triumph. May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.

Minister: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All: Blessed be God for ever.

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew


“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or

which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

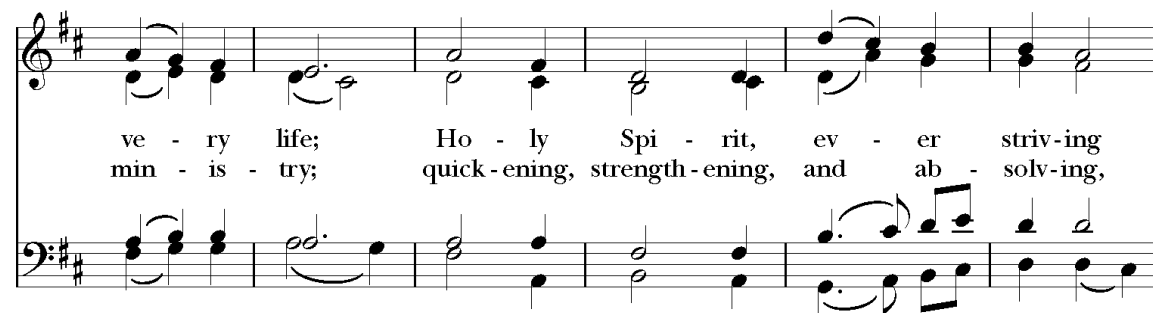
The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

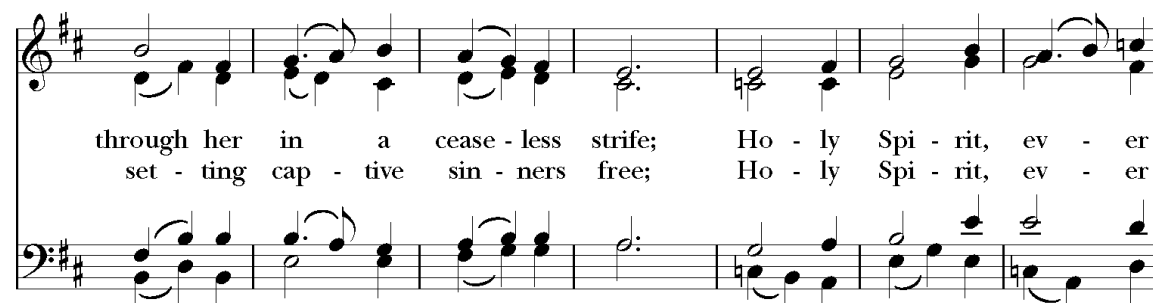
Let us begin with a hymn calling on the Holy Spirit.



1 Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er liv - ing as the Church's
2 Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er work - ing through the Church's



ve - ry life; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er striv - ing
min - is - try; quick - ening, strength - ening, and ab - solv - ing,



through her in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er
set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spi - rit, ev - er

form-ing in the Church the mind of Christ; thee we praise with
bind-ing age to age, and soul to soul, in a fel - low -

end - less wor-ship for thy fruits and gifts un - priced.
ship un - end - ing thee we wor - ship and ex - tol.

The Prayers

Minister: Be with us, Spirit of God;

All: nothing can separate us from your love.

Minister: Breathe on us, breath of God;

All: fill us with your saving power.

Minister: Speak in us, wisdom of God;

All: bring strength, healing and peace.

Minister: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Minister: Hear our prayers, O Lord our God.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Minister: Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Minister: Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of all the nations.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Minister: Give your people grace to hear and receive your word, and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Minister: Let us pray for the Nominees, that they would prayerfully consider a call to be the XIth bishop of the Diocese of Springfield.

Open Prayer

ALL: Inspire worthy servants of your church to stand bravely forward for election. Give them hearts of love and compassion for your people. Give them strong minds to think through the problems of this world and still live your word. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

Minister: Let us pray for the Nominees and for ourselves that together we will be prayerful about the result of the election, and open to God's leading for the future, whatever it may hold.

Open Prayer

All: Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our clergy, and upon their congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of your grace; and, that we and our elected bishop may truly please you. Continue to pour upon us the continual dew of your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Minister: Let us pray that God will guide the Nominating Synod in their work towards the selection of the final candidates for the election of the next bishop.

Open Prayer

All: Eternal God, shepherd and guide, in your mercy give your Church in this Diocese many candidates for our shepherd after your own heart; let them walk in your ways, and with loving care watch over all your people. Give us leaders of vision and teachers of your truth. So may your Church be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister: Let us pray for all Clergy and Lay members of the Synod as they prepare for and gather at both the nominating and Electing Synods, that they will be prayerful and open to God's guidance in their decision-making.

Open Prayer

All: Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the Synods of this Diocese for the renewal and mission of your Church. Send forth your spirit to teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister: Let us pray for the Standing Committee and the Election Committee, as they lead the Diocese through this interim period, that God will sustain and strengthen them, and give them wisdom in all they do.

Open Prayer

All: Almighty God, you have given your Holy Spirit to the Church to lead us into all truth: bless with the Spirit's grace and presence the members of our Election Committee and Standing Committee; keep them steadfast in faith and united in love, that we may manifest your glory and prepare the way of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

Minister: Let us pray for the Episcopal Church in our Diocese of Springfield and The Episcopal Church in the United States, that we will continue to be faithful messengers of God's truth in an ever-changing world.

Open Prayer

All: Give us all, in this season of change, patience, wisdom, and that gracious hospitality of soul that allows us to hear your voice and see your face in each other, even when we strongly differ. We ask your help in all these ways we see, and in all the ways only you can see, in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Minister: Let us pray for the Bishops and Standing Committees of the Episcopal Church who will have to confirm our Election of the XIth bishop of Springfield.

Open Prayer

All: Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who we will ask to confirm our election that they listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.