



**OPENING CELEBRATION
FOR THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY
IN THE DIOCESE OF HALLAM**

17 October 2021



Diocese of Hallam

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, our liturgy begins at the baptismal font, the source from which we became members of the pilgrim people of God. Through the renewal of our baptismal promises and sprinkling with Holy Water, we commit ourselves to continue to walk that pilgrim journey.

Opening Hymn

Veni Creator Spiritus (tr. anon)

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|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come,
from thy bright heavenly throne,
come, take possession of our souls,
and make them all thine own. | 5 | Far from us drive our deadly foe;
true peace unto us bring;
and through all perils lead us safe
beneath thy sacred wing. |
| 2 | Thou who art called the Paraclete,
best gift of God above,
the living spring, the living fire,
sweet unction and true love. | 6 | Through thee may we the Father know,
through thee th' eternal Son,
and thee the Spirit of them both,
thrice-blessed Three in One. |
| 3 | Thou who art sev'nfold in thy grace,
finger of God's right hand;
his promise, teaching little ones
to speak and understand. | 7 | All glory to the Father be,
with his co-equal Son;
the same to thee, great Paraclete,
while endless ages run. |
| 4 | O guide our minds with thy blest light,
with love our hearts inflame;
and with thy strength, which ne'er decays
confirm our mortal frame. | | |

After the opening hymn is concluded, all remain standing and turn to face the baptismal font, where the Bishop opens the liturgy in the usual way with the Sign of the Cross.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises and Sprinkling with Holy Water

The Bishop leads the faithful in the renewal of baptismal promises. The response to each of the questions is **I do**.

As the Bishop sprinkles the faithful with Holy Water, the following is sung:

℟ Water of life, cleanse and refresh us;
raise us to life in Christ Jesus.

1 All you who thirst, come to the waters,
and you will never be thirsty again. **℟**

2 Turn to the Lord, cast off your wickedness,
you will find peace in his infinite love. **℟**

Procession to the Altar

Accompanied on our journey by the word of God and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, the representatives of communities from across the diocese walk together with the Bishop. The procession is a reminder that the synodal journey is made together as a community of faith.

The Litany of Saints is sung as the procession takes place, to invoke the Saints, who also accompany us on this journey:

Lord, have mercy.

℟ Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

℟ Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

℟ Lord, have mercy.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

℟ pray for us.

...

All holy men and women,

Saints of God,

℟ pray for us.

Lord, be merciful.

℟ Lord, deliver us, we pray.

...

By the outpouring of the

Holy Spirit,

℟ Lord, deliver us, we pray.

Be merciful to us sinners,

℟ Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

...

Jesus, Son of the Living God,

℟ Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Christ, hear us.

℟ Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

℟ Christ, graciously hear us.

Collect

After the procession is concluded, the Bishop says the Collect:

O Lord, ruler and guardian of your Church,
pour out, we pray, upon your servants
a spirit of truth, understanding and peace,
that they may strive with all their heart
to know what is pleasing to you
and then pursue it with all their strength.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R Amen.

All sit for the Liturgy of the Word

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 10:1-48

Peter and Cornelius have a synodal conversation

Responsorial Psalm: 103:1, 24, 29-30, 31+34 (R 1a)

R Bless the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-26

The gifts of the Spirit in the body of the Church

All stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation: Cf. Luke 24:32

R Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us.
Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

R Alleluia!

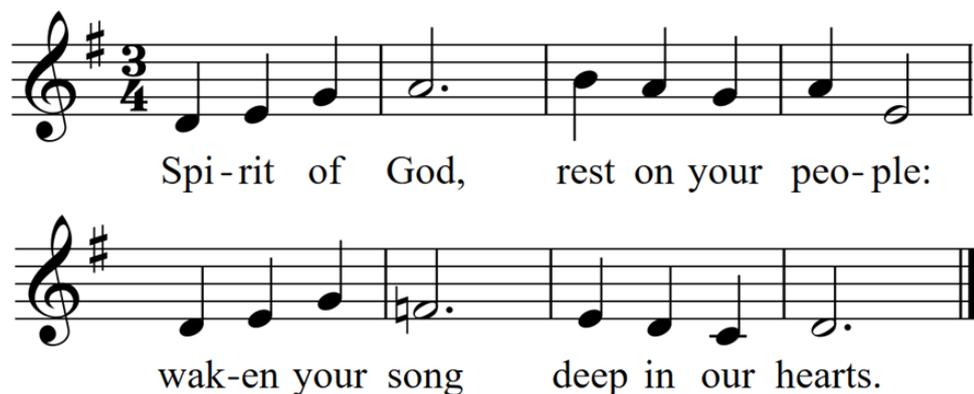
Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

The disciples and the Lord together on the road to Emmaus

Homily: Rt Rev Ralph Heskett, Bishop of Hallam

Testimonies of Faith

After the Bishop has concluded his homily, some members of parish communities from around the diocese will give a short testimony of their faith journey. We are encouraged to listen attentively to them and to the Holy Spirit. We respond to each testimony with this refrain:



Prayer of the Faithful

All stand for the Prayer of the Faithful. A reader will announce each intention, with all responding as follows:

✠ Lord, hear us.

✠ **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The Bishop concludes the Prayer of the Faithful by inviting everyone to pray the Lord's Prayer:

✠ We pray in the words that the Lord Jesus gave us:

✠ **Our Father...**

You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer in your own language.

The Prayer for the Synod

All then say the following prayer for the Synod, which is an abbreviated version of *Adsumus Dominus Sancte Spiritus*, historically prayed at ecumenical Councils and synods:

**We stand before you, Holy Spirit
as we gather in your name.**

**With you alone to guide us,
make yourself at home in our hearts;
teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.**

**We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.**

**Let us find in you our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.**

**All this we ask of you,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and Son,
forever and ever. Amen.**

CONCLUDING RITES

Sending Out for Mission

The liturgy concludes with the parish representatives collecting a candle and processing out of the Cathedral with the Bishop. They are given the task of taking this light back to their parish communities. Community groups are encouraged to relight their candle during the synod meetings that will take place in their parish.

- 1 Come down, O Love divine,
 seek thou this soul of mine,
 and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
 O comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
 and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

- 2 O let it freely burn,
 till earthly passions turn
 to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
 and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
 and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

- 3 Let holy charity
 mine outward vesture be,
 and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
 true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
 and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

- 4 And so the yearning strong,
 with which the soul will long,
 shall far outpass the power of human telling;
 for none can guess its grace, till he become the place
 wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

Thank you for your presence here today. **You are warmly invited to gather for refreshments in the Houlden Hall** as we begin our synodal journey together.

For more details about the synodal process in Hallam and how you can get involved, talk to your parish representative or Priest, go to <https://hallam-diocese.com/synod/> or e-mail synod@hallam-diocese.com. You can also follow us on Twitter: @Synodhallam1.