



The Person and the Economy of the Spirit

According to the Book of Common Prayer & the Bible
An installment in the series: Orthodox Anglicans Studying Scripture

Lesson 1: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Who is the Spirit and what does He do?

Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi: “the law of what is prayed [is] what is believed [is] the law of what is lived.”

The Holy Spirit, more than all of the Persons of the Blessed Trinity, must be discerned by how we acknowledge His presence and activity in the liturgy. Why? Because that is how Jesus promised His Disciples (and the whole Church) how we would know Him when He foretold His coming:

“When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:” (John 15:26)

“when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:” (John 16:13)

Our problem is we are too influenced by the Calvinist tendency to turn the Spirit into a doctrine of systematic theology, and we think of Him in the abstract, rather than recognize him and His operation in the life of the Church.

The Collect of Trinity Sunday

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

Proper Preface of Trinity Sunday

WHO, with thine only-begotten Son, and the Holy Ghost, art one God, one Lord, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Substance. For that which we believe of thy glory, O Father, the same we believe of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, without any difference of inequality.

Invitatory Antiphon on Trinity Sunday

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God; O come, let us adore him.

Gloria in Excelsis

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty...O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father...For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Te Deum Laudamus

The holy Church...doth acknowledge thee;
 The Father, of an infinite Majesty;
 Thine adorable, true, and only Son;
 Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

A General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies...through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Benediction at the Office

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

The Canon of the Mass

through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Reception of Holy Communion

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee...through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Final Blessing

the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets:

First Council of Constantinople (381): added this phrase *contra Macedonianism* which denied the full personhood & divinity of the Holy Spirit. This heresy said that the Spirit was created by the Son and was his subordinate. Adherents were called *Pneumatomachians*, (spirit fighters).

Supportive Scriptures

Genesis 1:1-2 Psalm 139:7 Isaiah 40:13
 Luke 1:35 John 14:16-18 1 Corinthians 2:10-11
 1 Corinth. 6:15ff 2 Corinth. 3:15-18 Ephesians 4:4-6



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Lesson 2: The Holy Church's Comforter

The Holy Spirit's Personal Relationship to the Church

The previous lesson expounded the Holy Spirit's personal identity and His relationship among the other Divine Persons of the Triune Godhead. What "Theo-logically" must follow is His economy of Personal activity in and with Christ's Church, as Jesus promised:

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;"

(John 14:16)

"The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

(John 14:26)

Of what the Church can be assured by Our Lord's promise is that the Personal Bond of Love between He and the Father will be in His Body that same Bond—one of love and unity—among Her members and between Her and God.

The Collect for Whitsunday

O GOD, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Proper Preface of Whitsuntide

THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord; according to whose most true promise, the Holy Ghost came down as at this time from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them, and to lead them into all truth;

Rite of Baptism

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, heavenly Father, We give thee humble thanks, That thou hast vouchsafed to call us to the knowledge of thy grace, and faith in thee: Increase this knowledge, And confirm this faith in us evermore. Give thy Holy Spirit to this Child, that he may be born again, and be made an heir of everlasting salvation; Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

THE Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; Grant you to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that, Christ dwelling in your hearts by faith, ye may be filled with all the fulness of God. Amen.

Rite of Confirmation

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who hast vouchsafed to regenerate these thy servants by Water and the Holy Ghost, and hast given unto them forgiveness of all their sins; Strengthen them, we beseech thee, O Lord, with the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, and daily increase in them thy manifold gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of thy holy fear, now and for ever. Amen.

DEFEND, O Lord, this thy Child with thy heavenly grace; that he may continue thine for ever; and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until he come unto thy everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Veni, Creator Spiritus (Rite of Ordination)

COME, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.

Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above,
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.

Enable with perpetual light
The dulness of our blinded sight.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of both, to be but One;

That, through the ages all along,
This may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Invocation of the Canon

AND we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit...

Supportive Scriptures

Acts 2:1-4 Acts 10:44-47 Acts 19:1-7
1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20 1 Corinthians 12
2 Corinthians 13:14 Ephesians 4:3-6 Luke 1:34-35



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Lesson 3: The Sanctifier of the Faithful

“The temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you”

Especially in his Corinthian epistles, St. Paul explains that the Holy Spirit has been given to us for a lifelong interior fellowship and process of spiritual renewal. He lives within to make of us His sacred dwelling and to purify us with the means of grace and His own Personal work of intercession and illumination. Put simply—as the Divine Nature inside us—He transforms us into new saints. Thus, as we concentrate on conversion during Lent through repentance, discipline, and amendment, we must remember that He enables us to reorient our lives and refine our thoughts, words, and deeds. As the “Spirit of truth” Christ promised who “will guide [us] into all truth”, His ministry in the Church makes us *holy*, for which Jesus also prayed:

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth...And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.” (John 17:17,19)

For this, the Church has identified the Holy Spirit, with this title, particularly in devotion—“Sanctifier of the Faithful”.

The Litany

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful;
Have mercy upon us.

That it may please thee to give to all thy people increase of grace to hear meekly thy Word, and to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

The Collect for Monday in Whitsun Week

SEND, we beseech thee, Almighty God, thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, that he may direct and rule us according to thy will, comfort us in all our afflictions, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Declaration of Absolution, or Remission of Sins.

[H]is Ministers...declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy;

Prayer for Grace

We humbly beseech thee to have compassion on our infirmities, and to give us the constant assistance of thy Holy Spirit; that we may be effectually restrained from sin, and incited to our duty. Imprint upon our hearts such a dread of thy judgments, and such a grateful sense of thy goodness to us, as may make us both afraid and ashamed to offend thee...

Prayer for Grace to reform and grow Better.

AND lest, through our own frailty, or the temptations which encompass us, we be drawn again into sin, vouchsafe us, we beseech thee, the direction and assistance of thy Holy Spirit. Reform whatever is amiss in the temper and disposition of our souls; that no unclean thoughts, unlawful designs, or inordinate desires, may rest there. Purge our hearts from envy, hatred, and malice; that we may never suffer the sun to go down upon our wrath; but may always go to our rest in peace, charity, and goodwill, with a conscience void of offence...

For Guidance.

O GOD, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly; Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of Wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Supportive Scriptures

Acts 5, 8 & 18 Romans 8:26
I Corinthians 2:10-16 I Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20
I Peter 1:2-5,22-23 I John 3:24 – 4:13



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Lesson 4: The Renewer of the Earth

“I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh”

When the Spirit descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost and enabled them to speak to all hearers in their own language, the infant Church was inheriting the promise made by the prophet Joel (2:28-32) that the human race would receive a personal outpouring of God’s holy Breath (*ruach*) upon it. Recalling Genesis 1, the descent of the Spirit was a new creation event. Recalling Genesis 11, it was the undoing of the scattering by language that occurred at the Tower of Babel. The Apostles were spiritually ready to the fulfill Christ’s command to evangelize the world:

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Through His chosen instruments and mouthpieces, the Holy Spirit could accomplish His work of “renewing the face of the earth” by reviving the faith of God’s People and converting the heathen to the true God. Such is the main theme we pray for in the *Veni Sancte Spiritus*:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

The Collect for Tuesday in Whitsun Week

GRANT, we beseech thee, merciful God, that thy Church, being gathered together in unity by thy Holy Spirit, may manifest thy power among all peoples, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Proper Preface of Whitsuntide

THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord; according to whose most true promise, the Holy Ghost came down as at this time from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them, and to lead them into all truth; giving them boldness with fervent zeal constantly to preach the Gospel unto all nations; whereby we have been brought out of darkness and error into the clear light and true knowledge of thee, and of thy Son Jesus Christ.

Veni, Creator Spiritus (Rite of Ordination)

COME, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
Vouchsafe within our souls to rest;
Come with thy grace and heavenly aid,
And fill the hearts which thou hast made.

To thee, the Comforter, we cry;
To thee, the Gift of God most high;
The Fount of life, the Fire of love,
The soul's Anointing from above.

The sevenfold gifts of grace are thine,
O Finger of the Hand Divine;
True Promise of the Father thou,
Who dost the tongue with speech endow.

Thy light to every sense impart,
And shed thy love in every heart;
Thine own unfailing might supply
To strengthen our infirmity.

Drive far away our ghostly foe,
And thine abiding peace bestow;
If thou be our preventing Guide,
No evil can our steps betide.

For the Unity of God's People.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace; Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord: that as there is but one Body and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer For Missions.

O God, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the whole earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to them that are far off and to them that are nigh; Grant that all men everywhere may seek after thee and find thee. Bring the nations into thy fold, pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten thy kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Supportive Scriptures

Matthew 28:18-20 Mark 16:15-18 Acts 2, 8, 10
Galatians 3-5 Ephesians 2 Revelation 5:6



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Lesson 5: The Glorifier of the Saints

“When he ascended up on high”

As also St. Paul describes in places like Ephesians 4, Christ ascended to heaven with the intention that we might also follow after Him. Again, in His Farewell Discourse at the Last Supper, Jesus encouraged His Disciples that He would be leaving them to return from whence He came, but so that “after a little while” they might be able to follow after Him:

“I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” (John 14:2-3)

Within the context of the entire chapter, which we have considered in previous lessons, Christ’s implication is that He sends the Holy Spirit to minister to the Church until we are ready to join Him in heaven. He prepares us on earth while Jesus prepares to receive us in heaven. From this, we learn that the final phase of the Spirit’s ministry is *eschatological*: to ready each soul to meet Christ after death and to ready the entire Church to join Christ upon His return at the Second Coming. For this reason, the Church calls the Spirit “the Glorifier”, since He finishes His saving work in us by exalting us glorified into our eternal destiny.

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities...And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. (Romans 8:26-30)

The Collect for the Sunday after Ascension

O GOD, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. AMEN.

Visitation of the Sick

LITANY FOR THE DYING.

O GOD the Father;

Have mercy upon the soul of thy servant.

O God the Son;

Have mercy upon the soul of thy servant.

O God the Holy Ghost;

Have mercy upon the soul of thy servant.

By thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Ghost;
Good Lord, deliver him.

An Absolution to be said by the Priest.

THE Almighty and merciful Lord grant thee pardon and remission of all thy sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Commendation

DEPART, O Christian soul, out of this world, In the Name of God the Father Almighty who created thee. In the Name of Jesus Christ who redeemed thee. In the Name of the Holy Ghost who sanctifieth thee. May thy rest be this day in peace, and thy dwellingplace in the Paradise of God.

AT THE GRAVE.

ALL that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

He that raised up Jesus from the dead will also quicken our mortal bodies, by his Spirit that dwelleth in us.

I HEARD a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who by thy death didst take away the sting of death; Grant unto us thy servants so to follow in faith where thou hast led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in thee, and awake up after thy likeness; through thy mercy, who livest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Supportive Scriptures

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

(Revelation 22:17)