

Gifts of the Heart

O Lord, You who make all things new, come to my heart and bring Your Hope and Peace. The Treasures of Your Sacred Heart are so sweet, You fill my soul to overflowing. Come, O Lord, and fill my heart that I may overflow Your graces into this world of sadness. May You find Your rest in me. May You find a willing heart and a joyous soul.

Readings: Luke 24:36-53; Acts of the Apostles 2, 5:12-16; 7:54-60;10:44-49; Romans 8:28-39;12:1-21; 1 Cor 12:4-30, 1 Cor 13: 1-13; Ephesians 4: 1-16. Psalms 145, 146, 148, 150

Response: Go to Gifts of the Heart section of poems.

Reflection: Dear Lord, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Pour down Your Spirit upon me to assist me in following Your Way, in standing in Your Truth and in loving Your Life in Your Sacred Heart of Love. Stay with me, as You promised, until the end of the age and bring me closer to You and to Your Heart so that we may be one eternally. You are my Life and my life is Yours.

(For an added dimension of consecration at the end of your retreat, you may wish to add a prayer poem of consecration from the Consecration to the Heart section or go to <http://www.sacredheartdevotion.com> for St. Margaret Mary's prayer of consecration.)

In Jesus Name and the Name of the Blessed Trinity. Amen.

PRAYER POEMS FOR "GIFTS of the HEART"

The Tide of Your Love

As Your Love pours out to me
And mine returns to You, it's Source,
As the waves crashing to the shore
Will, when intense, mix with the tide returning to the sea,
Becoming that swirling, churning mixture
Until it is hard to separate the coming in from the going out,
So our Love becomes that sweet mix
Swirling, churning, bubbling with Life
Inseparable.

The Dawning of the Light

As the Light,
Hidden from us for a time,
Approaches the dawning,
The darkness
of that long night
Pales to gray.
We wait in hope and anticipation
For the dawning of the Light.

As the Light returns to our world,
Gray is erased.
Once again colors grace our lives
As darkness scurries from the Light.
We are saved from the darkness,
From the eternally cold night,
And as the rays of Light touch us,
We are warmed,
We come alive again.
Gladdened and grateful
For the return of Light
To our darkness,
We joyfully praise our God
Who from His Divine Heart
Has graced us with Life.

O Lord, may we turn our hearts
To the Source of our Light.
May we ever be mindful
Of the Source of all goodness.
May our hearts flee from darkness
Opening only to the Rays
Of Your Sacred Heart of Love.

O Night of Darkness
Flee from the Light
As Hope returns.
You have failed
To kill our faith
In a God who loves us
Who will return for us
As His Rays of Love
Spill into our waiting hearts
Nourishing us with His Love,
Gifting us with His Peace.

Garden of the Soul

Even before my thoughts find You,
Your Heart gathers my heart into
That Secret Garden of the Soul.

As my thoughts follow,
You surround me with
The bouquet of Your gifts,
The treasures of Your Heart,
And joy becomes my companion,
Love the landscape.

This garden, this paradise of the soul,
So near, so ever-present,
Only a turn of the heart away.
Always You are there to embrace
The One who thrives on Your love
Becoming saturated in Your Grace.

My thoughts, our thoughts,
Turn to Your abandoned ones,
Your searching and lost ones,
The ones for whom life seems so cold,
So dark, so confusing.
They find their solace in empty gardens,
In deadening senses,
In stimulating false joy,
Like a wedding without the Groom.

If they but knew the path
To this Garden of the Heart,
To the fragrance of Your Sacred Love,
To the meadows of Your restful peace,
To the sunshine of Your joy,
They could want no other.

Your Joy more sweet,
Your Love more tender,
Your Sacred Heart more comforting
Than anything the world offers.

There is a time for faith
When one must see You without form,
When one must hear You without sound,
When one must love You without thought of return,
When one must sacrifice without reward.

But You lavish so richly
A heart that loves You
That soon blind faith is no longer
For we can see Your face,
Hear Your voice,
Feel Your breath,
Sense Your movement
Everywhere we turn.
You become to us what is real,
The world a passing illusion.

Your garden, dear Heart of our hearts,
Blossoms through the darkest days,
Warms the coldest nights.
Your paradise,
Not a thing of the past
Or a promise of the future,
But in love following upon love,
A fulfillment and presence of
The kingdom today.

Heart Unveiled

I stand before you, my child,
Revealing my Heart to you
Unveiling my Heart's Treasures,
Exposing all my tenderness,
My sweet desire for your love.
It is for sharing this love
That I created you, my child.
Look into this Sacred Heart
Bound with thorns,
Pierced with your offenses,
With your neglect.
But in this piercing
I reveal my Love deeper still

For you, my child, as you are.
My Heart opens to you.
It beats for you.
Come and join your heart to Mine
As our joys and sorrows become one.

Every day I draw you deeper into my Heart.
I surround you with my Love.
I offer the treasures and gifts of my Heart.
If you will just touch your heart to Mine
I will fill you with all you desire.
Place your heart and soul
In My Hands and Heart
For My keeping.
I will lead you so tenderly
To My Heart's inner chambers
Where you will find
The Living Waters,
The Precious Blood,
Springing forth in Fountains of Life Eternal.
Immerse yourself into My Heart
Where you will find my tender Love,
My constant attention to
Your every need and desire,
Where you will find the
Gate to Eternity
Where the Promised land
Stretches out before you
In the inner landscape
Of My Sacred Heart.

Stepping Closer

The Sacred Mountains from far away
Look small and not so formidable on the horizon.
From far away the sense of self is not threatened
By the Grandeur of You.
But the closer I come to You, My Almighty Lord and God,
The more immense and overwhelming You become,
As the mountains from a distance seem small
But as one comes closer, seem unreachably large.

Every step I take desiring closeness to You,
O Heart of the Universe,
I am overcome by Your Beauty,
By Your Intelligence beyond my imaginings,

By Your Power, Grandeur and Grace,
And most especially by the depth without limit
And sweetness beyond our comprehension
Of Your Sacred Love.

I stand at the foot of Your Grandeur,
Staring into the face of Your Majesty.
I want to climb to Your Heights;
I want to swim in Your Grace and Joy;
I want to touch the Heart of Your Love.

You seem so untamable, so limitless.
How can I ever know all of You?
Yet You touch my heart
In Your gentle, knowing way,
That reaches to the center of who I am
And bonds me to the center of who You are.

In that unfathomable sweetness of limitless Grace
Is born a knowing...
A taste of Your Love,
A sense of Your Joy,
A glimpse of Eternity
Beyond our time and space,
Beyond our limited mind;
A taste of our soul's perfect fit into the
Prepared place in You;
A place of Perfect Love and gentle Joy
Held in Your Sacred Heart;
A place where Your Grandeur
Is only exceeded by
The intimate depth of Your Love,
Unending, unexplainable, irresistible,
Perfect.

Within Your Heart
(A Pilgrim's Journey)

I
Holy Spirit, come!
Lead me to the path
That leads to His Sacred Heart!
Allow me not to stray.
Guide my thoughts to be Your thoughts,
My actions inspired only by You
That they may lead me ever closer
To the Sacred Heart of my God.

Place me deep within this Sacred Heart
That I may seek only His Love;
That protected by the Heart of my Savior,
All the attacks and distractions
Of this world weak with sin
Will be burned away by the Fire of His Love
Before they can reach my heart.

Come, Holy Spirit,
Bring me Your Gifts
From the Treasures of His Heart
That I may grow more like Him,
That I may speak more of and like Him,
That I may act more like Him;
That I may be a vessel of Your Love
And of Your Grace in this weakened world.

Purify me,
Sanctify me,
Unfold Your Will in me,
Use me to Your Glory,
But keep me ever buried
Deep within Your Sacred Heart
That my heart will always be
Home in You
While still a pilgrim on Your Path.

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Deep within Your Heart
I find a furnace of Love,
A cauldron of graces overflowing.
Deep within Your Heart
I become aware
Of the purity required
To reside here.
Nothing but pure Love, pure Truth,
Complete self-denial,
Complete surrender
To this fiery action of Total Love
Can be home here,
Can spring from here.

Take me to You, O my Lord
And sanctify me to Your Will
That I may come closer
To the center of Your Heart;
That I may be set free

Of all that is not You,
To be home in Your Heart,
A willing prisoner of Your Love.

Draw me to Your fiery furnace,
O Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Let me bow to You in surrender
To Your purifying furnace,
To Your transforming Love.
Draw me near to Your Flame of Love.
Weak in Your Presence
I draw strength only from You.
No resistance can I make
To becoming Your willing prisoner
Of the Heart.

You Lift My Soul

You lift my soul into Your hands,
My soul that belongs only to You.
Your graces wash clean the dust and
Attached bits of the world that cling to me.
Your Breath of Life warms my soul and frees me.
All darkness is scattered now by Your Light
That shines through my transparent soul.
Here, with You, I will remain, for You are Life.

My soul is lifted to Your Heart,
That place where I always wish to be,
That place where I am always home,
Always free, always consumed in Your Flame.
All I am melts into Your Flame of Love,
Touching the Heart of Life, the Core of Existence.

Let me remain here, my soul emotes.
Let my love touch Your Love
At its Source.
The Spirit in You stirs,
Drawing me into closer union with You,
My Lord, my God,
My Source of all that I am.
Your stirring inflames my heart with You,
The Source of my love,
The Heart of who I am.

My desire is to stay here with You,
And with You I will remain for awhile.
As You blend my soul with all that You are,

With Your graces, I am renewed,
Drawing in Your grace,
Breathing in Your Perfection,
Drinking of Your Love.

Slowly, gently, You draw me forth again,
Pouring my soul out like a waterfall,
You return me to the place where You want me,
For now, until You call me home forever.
Refreshed, renewed, enclosed in Your Love,
Your Flame ignites from my soul, my heart, to my body
And I, though here where You want me for now,
Carry the remembrance of home, in You.

Carry this place with you, you whisper,
That all will feel this place, My Heart, in you,
That I may reach out through you to my loved ones.
My desire is to draw them closer to Me,
That they may find their home again in My Heart.
My soul bows to You, my Lord, Heart of my soul.

Bring Holy Joy!

Reaching, stretching, grasping for Your Love,
Your treasures of joy and peace come tumbling upon me
Covering me in Your wondrous riches,
Lifting my heart to Yours!

I touch Your Sacred Heart with the hands of my love
And sense something more precious than words can describe!
Your Sacred Heart, so full of Love and Sorrow,
Moves with my touch and is changed!!
There, in Your Kingdom of Eternal Love,
My reaching, my grasping, my passion
Turns YOUR Sorrow into JOY!

How tenderly You move
Touching my heart, drawing it into Yours.
Every cell in my body transformed
In Your waterfall of Joy and Love;
Tasting heaven,
My soul rests in the Eternal Peace
Of Your embrace.

Sweep Through My Soul

Your Fire sweeps through my soul
As Your love ignites the kindling in my heart.
Your Words, Your Presence, Your Precious Gifts,
Your intimate walk in my soul,
All gifts, all kindling to ignite Your Fire in me.

You have blessed me with more
Than my heart can bear;
So, like a flammable liquid
Spilling over into life,
So Your graces overflow in me
And become Fire with Your Flame.

You place Your Heartprints in my soul
And watch me run to them with joy!
The joy You give, like a white hot fire,
The closer we get, the more we become
Engulfed in Your Heart Flame
Until all that remains is
One Flame,
Undivided.

This Love

There is this Love
That saturates my soul
In a radiance, in a gentleness,
In a preciousness that penetrates
The deepest oceans and the highest heights
Of my inner landscape.

There is this Love
That surrounds me,
That inebriates me,
That inspires me,
That comforts me,
That breaks me,
That holds me,
That lifts me,
That penetrates me,
That overflows in me,
That ignites me,

That touches me in ways
That can only be touched by You,
O Lord of my Life,

O Sacred Heart of my soul's desire,
O Glue of my existence.

You come,
Your sweet, surrendering Love
Draws forth the abandonment of my soul
To You, my Love, my Creator,
My Defender, my Master.

Your Sacred Heart,
Like a magnet,
Draws everything I am to You
And bonds me
Without hope or desire of escape
To Your Heart of Hearts,
That place where only we can go
And live in eternal communion;
That Heaven of our Hearts,
That eternal intimacy of Your Love.

How could it be fair, one may think,
To have this eternal preciousness,
This sweet nectar of Life
And intimate Love to oneself.
But You, O God of Eternity and Omnipotence,
Not limited like our human minds and hearts,
Can touch, can love, can hold at the same time
The heart of each of your creations
In this eternal, intimate embrace
Bonded by Your Grace,
Inebriated by Your Love,
Oblivious to life outside of You,
Forever together, forever unique;
Love following upon Love.

The Secret Chamber

Entering into the Secret Chamber in our hearts,
The Sanctuary of the Most High,
We step over the threshold between the world of time
And that of Eternity,
That space of unearthly softness where Love reigns
Pouring itself out eternally
Through the shape of a human heart.

Like a wave Love breaks upon us
Igniting a million little flames in our hearts, our souls,
Every cell in our bodies,

Spreading like wildfire to everything we are;
We become a living flame of His Love
Tasting the joy,
Touching the love,
We enter into the Holy Sanctuary
Where lovers meet
And hearts are joined

Where bones are like liquid

And flesh like air

And only You remain,
O Lover of my soul.

The Brides Await

The Brides await.
Lamps trimmed,
Watching and waiting with joy
Enough for all.
They dance their joy, overflowing,
They sing their precious love songs
Alone, it seems, in Silence.
But He watches, this Lover of their souls,
He woos in their chambers of the heart,
Surrounding their dancing with His Love,
Bringing harmony to their songs of passion.
This love is so dense it condenses on
The very walls of their chambers
Gathering in pools of the elixir of Peace
So thick one must wade through it slowly
Absorbing its sweetness, comforted by its softness,
Illuminated by its Light.

The Brides await with anticipation
The consummation of their love
At the Wedding Feast.
But their visits with their Beloved
Fill their souls with the taste and fragrance
Of what is to come,
Spilling forth from their hearts' chambers
Like a floodgate, unrestrained.

For The Asking

Deep within the core of my soul
Your Spirit moves,
Like lava deep within the earth's core
Moving, burning, building momentum.
Your Spirit, outpouring of Your Heart,
Stirs the deepest parts of me,
Like embers stirred,
Inflaming my love to fire.
Your deep touch, Your stirring,
The movement of a Love so pure,
So precious, so intimate,
It fills my deepest desires
Yet inflames my desires still!
How could I desire more?
Yet my heart longs for
All You desire to give!

Your Precious, Intimate Presence within,
Your movement stirring my passion for You,
This touch of Love so sweet
It must be for one alone.
Yet the Majesty of Your Sacred Heart
Is that this Temple of Precious Love
Comes to each who ardently asks.
So immense is Your Love,
Yet so intimate Your touch
That each You created can know and feel
The Hand and Heart of God
For only one,
In deep communion
With one's soul and heart
For the asking.

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