

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division (*places experiencing division may be named*). Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Bless caregivers as they show God's hospitality through their generous service. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed of this community and of the wider church and world. We give thanks for saints of all times and places (*like Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons whom the church remembers today*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**



Celebrate

Sunday, June 28, 2026
5th Sunday after Pentecost

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. ⁷But listen now to this

word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (Peter and Paul, Apostles) John 21:15-19. **Tuesday** Psalm 119:161-168. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators) Matthew 11:20-24. **Thursday** Psalm 145:8-14. **Friday** (Thomas, Apostle) John 14:1-7. **Saturday** Luke 10:21-24. **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost** Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

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- Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;
 from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.
- ²**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;
 you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.**
- ³⁶I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;
 I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:
- ⁴**I will establish your | line forever,
 and preserve your throne for all | generations.’” R**
- ¹⁵Happy are the people who know the | festal shout!
 They walk, O LORD, in the light | of your presence.
- ¹⁶**They rejoice daily | in your name;
 they are jubilant | in your righteousness.**
- ¹⁷For you are the glory | of their strength,
 and by your favor our might | is exalted.
- ¹⁸**Truly, our shield belongs | to the LORD;
 our king to the Holy | One of Israel. R**

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you

were entrusted ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in

the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”