

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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all laborers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of those who are oppressed and grant them compassion to deal mercifully with immigrants and refugees who reside among us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, 202) Psalm 17. **Tuesday** Zechariah 3:1-10. **Wednesday** Job 1:1-22. **Thursday** (commemoration of Harriet Tubman, 1913; Sojourner Truth, 1883; renewers of society) Psalm 27. **Friday** Philippians 3:17-20. **Saturday** (commemoration of Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604) Psalm 118:26-29. **Second Sunday in Lent** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35.

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We pray for those in need. Rescue those experiencing mental illness or contending with addiction. Ease the anxiety of those who live with dementia. Command your angels concerning all who are sick (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Bless those who bake bread and prepare the table for our communion celebration. Accompany those who share the bounty of this meal with those who are homebound or hospitalized. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for those who have died (*especially*). Gather them with all the saints into your heavenly dwelling place. Encourage us with the promise that all who call upon your name are saved. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



Celebrate

First Sunday in Lent

March 6, 2022

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

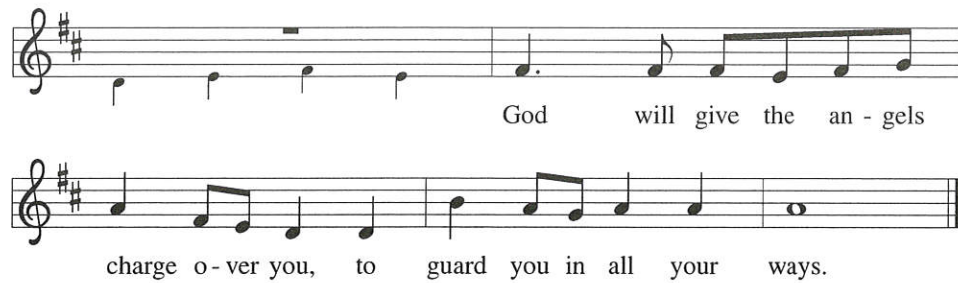
Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your

God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it

continued



You who dwell in the shelter of ¹the Most High,
 who abide in the shadow of ¹the Almighty—
²**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge ¹and my stronghold,
 my God in whom I ¹put my trust.” R**
⁹Because you have made the ¹LORD your refuge,
 and the Most High your ¹habitation,
¹⁰**no evil ¹will befall you,
 nor shall affliction come ¹near your dwelling.**
¹¹For God will give the angels charge ¹over you,
 to guard you in ¹all your ways.
¹²**Upon their hands they will ¹bear you up,
 lest you strike your foot a- ¹gainst a stone. R**
¹³You will tread upon the lion ¹cub and viper;
 you will trample down the lion ¹and the serpent.
¹⁴**I will deliver those who ¹cling to me;
 I will uphold them, because they ¹know my name.**
¹⁵They will call me, and I will ¹answer them;
 I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and ¹honor them.
¹⁶**With long life will I ¹satisfy them,
 and show them ¹my salvation. R**

down before the LORD your God and
 bow down before the LORD your God.
¹¹Then you, together with the Levites
 and the aliens who reside among you,

shall celebrate with all the bounty that
 the LORD your God has given to you
 and to your house.

Second Reading

Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

“The word is near you,
 on your lips and in your heart”
 (that is, the word of faith that we pro-
 claim); ⁹because if you confess with
 your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe
 in your heart that God raised him
 from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For
 one believes with the heart and so is
 justified, and one confesses with the

mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture
 says, “No one who believes in him will
 be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no dis-
 tinction between Jew and Greek; the
 same Lord is Lord of all and is gen-
 erous to all who call on him. ¹³For,
 “Everyone who calls on the name of
 the Lord shall be saved.”

Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned
 from the Jordan and was led by the
 Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for
 forty days he was tempted by the devil.
 He ate nothing at all during those
 days, and when they were over, he was
 famished. ³The devil said to him, “If
 you are the Son of God, command
 this stone to become a loaf of bread.”
⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written,
 ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵Then the devil led him up and
 showed him in an instant all the king-
 doms of the world. ⁶And the devil
 said to him, “To you I will give their
 glory and all this authority; for it has
 been given over to me, and I give it
 to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will
 worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus
 answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
 and serve only him.’”

⁹Then the devil took him to
 Jerusalem, and placed him on the pin-
 nacle of the temple, saying to him, “If
 you are the Son of God, throw your-
 self down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,
 ‘He will command his angels
 concerning you,
 to protect you,’

¹¹and
 ‘On their hands they will bear you
 up,
 so that you will not dash your
 foot against a stone.’”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do
 not put the Lord your God to the
 test.’” ¹³When the devil had finished
 every test, he departed from him until
 an opportune time.