

## Prayers of Intercession

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

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

You crown your church with steadfast love and mercy. Guide us continually in our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Use our diverse gifts in service to the whole people of God. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You satisfy the needs of all creatures. Protect the habitats of fish and birds (*local bodies of water or wildlife refuges may be named*). Repair ecosystems damaged by misuse, neglect, or natural disaster, that all creation may thrive. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make your ways known to all people. Inspire the rulers and leaders of nations with your compassion and mercy. Raise up activists and community organizers to restore places affected by violence, poverty, and inequality. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 109:21-31. **Tuesday** Ezekiel 20:18-32. **Wednesday** (Bartholomew, Apostle) John 1:43-51. **Thursday** Psalm 112. **Friday** 1 Peter 4:7-11. **Saturday** Proverbs 21:1-4, 24-26. **12th Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, c. 430; Moses the Black, monk, martyr, c. 400) Proverbs 25:6-7 or Sirach 10:12-18; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14.

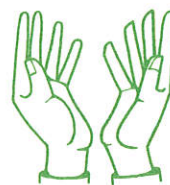
CELEBRATE August 21, 2022 (Lectionary 21)

Volume 53, Number 4

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.90 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by John Paradowski. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year C* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006). Please visit our Web site at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year C.

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# Celebrate

Sunday, August 21, 2022  
11th Sunday after Pentecost

*Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.*

## Prayer of the Day

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 58:9b-14

*God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.*

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.  
<sup>13</sup>If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,  
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;  
if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable;  
if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;  
<sup>14</sup>then you shall take delight in the LORD,  
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.



Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup> O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's <sup>1</sup> holy name.  
<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup> O my soul,**  
**and forget not <sup>1</sup> all God's benefits—**  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives <sup>1</sup> all your sins  
and heals all <sup>1</sup> your diseases;  
<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life <sup>1</sup> from the grave**  
**and crowns you with steadfast <sup>1</sup> love and mercy; R**  
<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires <sup>1</sup> with good things  
so that your youth is renewed <sup>1</sup> like an eagle's.  
<sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide <sup>1</sup> vindication**  
**and justice for all who <sup>1</sup> are oppressed.**  
<sup>7</sup>You made known your <sup>1</sup> ways to Moses  
and your works to the chil- <sup>1</sup> dren of Israel.  
<sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compas- <sup>1</sup> sion and mercy,**  
**slow to anger and abounding in <sup>1</sup> steadfast love. R**

*Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.*

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup>and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup>(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." <sup>21</sup>Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") <sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup>and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the

sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup>See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! <sup>26</sup>At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." <sup>27</sup>This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup>Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; <sup>29</sup>for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

## Gospel

**Luke 13:10-17**

*Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.*

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. <sup>11</sup>And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup>When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." <sup>13</sup>When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup>But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on

which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? <sup>16</sup>And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup>When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.