

Prayers of Intercession

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

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

Equip your faithful people to approach this world with a sense of wonder. Make your church a safe place to explore big questions, troubling doubts, and honest laments. Humble our hearts to repent of the ways that communities of faith have inflicted pain or trauma. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You spoke creation into order from the chaos of the swirling deep. May your name be praised by rivers and seas, wetlands and waterfalls. Secure clean water for all people and protect water sources from contamination or exploitation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Amid whirlwinds of division, violence, and conflict, remind us again that you are as steadfast as the foundations of the earth. Rejuvenate peacemakers, advocates, and community organizers when they feel weary

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (John the Baptist) Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]. **Tuesday** (commemoration of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530; Philipp Melancthon, renewer of the church, 1560) Exodus 9:13-35. **Wednesday** Mark 6:45-52. **Thursday** (commemoration of Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, 444) Psalm 30. **Friday** (commemoration of Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, c. 202) 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. **Saturday** (Peter and Paul, Apostles) John 21:15-19. **6th Sunday after Pentecost** Lamentations 3:22-33 or Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43.

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in their work (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Deliver your people from their distress, O God. We lift before you all who are sick or struggling (*especially*). Grant consolation and peace to all who live with chronic, terminal, or persistent illness. In times of affliction or hardship, sustain us in faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Enfold all travelers with your protection. Bless the comings and goings of this assembly as we travel for leisure or for work. Let all journeys be met with hospitality on the way, and let community members return to us with celebration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation for all the redeemed of the Lord. Joined together with the great cloud of witnesses, we give thanks for your steadfast love and your wonderful works. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



Celebrate

Sunday, June 23, 2024
5th Sunday after Pentecost

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

Prayer of the Day

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Job 38:1-11

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.

The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?—

⁹when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors,

¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped?’”



You stilled the storm and silenced the waves of the sea.

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**Some went down to the sea in ships,
plying their trade in deep waters. R**

They beheld the works of the LORD,
God's wonderful works in the deep.

**Then God spoke, and a stormy wind arose,
which tossed high the waves of the sea.**

They mounted up to the heavens and descended to the depths;
their souls melted away in their peril.

**They staggered and reeled like drunkards,
and all their skill was of no avail.**

Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD,
and you delivered them from their distress.

**You stilled the storm to a whisper
and silenced the waves of the sea. R**

Then were they glad when it grew calm,
when you guided them to the harbor they desired.

**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

Let them exalt you in the assembly of the people;
in the council of the elders, let them sing hallelujah! R

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation
I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time;
see, now is the day of salvation!

We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,

truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

Gospel

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life's turbulence.

When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to

him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”