

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

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy God, make your people one as you and your Son are one. Extend the gifts we have been given by your Spirit to all people, especially those experiencing division or questioning your love. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make worthy the work of scientists who look to the stars and planets, as well as scientists who look to atoms and molecules. Bring innovation and well-being to humanity through their discoveries. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep in our minds those who have died in war, both military and civilians (*especially*). May we honor them by seeking peaceful solutions to the conflicts that arise among nations and peoples. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 29. **Tuesday** (Visit of Mary to Elizabeth) Luke 1:39-57. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Justin, martyr at Rome, c. 165) Ezekiel 3:12-21. **Thursday** Psalm 104:24-34, 35b. **Friday** (commemoration of the Martyrs of Uganda, 1886; John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, 1963) Galatians 6:7-10. **Saturday** (Vigil of Pentecost) John 7:37-39. **Day of Pentecost** (commemoration of Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, 754) Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17 [25-27].

CELEBRATE May 29, 2022

Volume 53, Number 3

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 Carl Schalk. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year C* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year C.

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Tracks 1 and 2



Celebrate

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 29, 2022

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

Prayer of the Day

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 16:16-34

Those who had enslaved a girl and used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for ordering the spirit to come out of her and consequently ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²²The

crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul

continued



The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
²Clouds and darkness surround the Lord,
righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.
³Fire goes before the Lord,
burning up enemies on every side.
⁴Lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
⁵The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
⁶The heavens declare your righteousness,
and all the peoples see your glory. **R**
⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!
Bow down before the Lord, all you gods.
⁸Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgment, O Lord.
⁹For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
¹⁰You who love the Lord, hate evil!
God guards the lives of the saints
and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.
¹¹Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the honest of heart.
¹²Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,
and give thanks to God's holy name. **R**

shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"³¹ They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."³² They that he had become a believer in God.

First Reading, continued

Second Reading Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work.¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.¹⁶ "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the church—es, I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Gospel John 17:20-26

Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.

[Jesus prayed:] "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one,²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become complete-ly one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them in them, and I in them."

even as you have loved me.²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.²⁵ "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."