



Celebrate

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 8, 2022

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.

Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unfailing trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives (*especially*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, 1760) Psalm 100. **Tuesday** Acts 9:32-35. **Wednesday** Jeremiah 50:17-20. **Thursday** Psalm 148. **Friday** Daniel 7:13-14. **Saturday** (Matthias, Apostle) Luke 6:12-16. **Fifth Sunday of Easter** Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35.

Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation (*especially*). Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away every tear from their eyes. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire the words of prophets and saints who employ innovative imagery to stretch our understanding (*as did Julian of Norwich, whom we commemorate today*). Send Christ to instruct us with motherly care. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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

Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics

and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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Tracks 1 and 2



The LORD is my shep-herd; I shall not be in want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

2The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me be- side still waters.

3You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake. **4**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **R**

5You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. **R**

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

in white, and where have they come from?" **14**I said to him, "Sir, you are the count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. **10**They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne,

and to the Lamb!"

11And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12**singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honor

and power and might

be to our God forever and ever! Amen." **13**Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed

15For this reason they are before the throne of God,

and worship him day and night within his temple,

and the one who is seated on

the throne will shelter them.

16They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

nor any scorching heat;

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, **23**and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. **24**So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." **25**Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; **26**but you do not believe, because you do not believe, because you do not hear my voice, and they follow me. **28**I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. **29**What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. **30**The Father and I are one."