

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

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you hear the cries of those who seek you. Equip your church with evangelists who reveal the continuous call of your outstretched hands and your promises of a home in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of the earth. Restore places where land, air, and waterways have been harmed. Guide us to develop and implement sources of energy and food production that do not destroy the earth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of those who are marginalized or cast out. On this Juneteenth observance, guide us continually toward the end of oppression in all its forms, especially white supremacy. Bring true freedom and human flourishing to all your beloved children. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 64. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, 1931) Ephesians 2:11-22. **Wednesday** Luke 9:37-43a. **Thursday** Psalm 16. **Friday** (John the Baptist) Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]. **Saturday** (commemoration of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530; Philipp Melancthon, renewer of the church, 1560) Luke 9:21-27. **3rd Sunday after Pentecost** 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62.

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Celebrate

Sunday, June 19, 2022
2nd Sunday after Pentecost

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet announces God's impatience. The people's self-absorption is idolatry, and images of practices that displease God fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel's exile to establish a new community of the faithful.

I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name.

²I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;

³a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks;

⁴who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine's flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels;

⁵who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."

These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long.

⁶See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps ⁷their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,

because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions.

⁸Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, "Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it," so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all.

⁹I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.



But you, O Lord, be not far away;
O my help, hasten to my aid.

20 Deliver me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.
21 Save me from the lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

22 I will declare your name to my people;

R In the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

23 You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel.

24 For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the Lord's face hid from them;

but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.

25 From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

Let those who seek the Lord give praise!

R May your hearts live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

28 For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations. **R**

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28** There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Gospel

Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.

Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. **27** As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. **28** When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" — **29** for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. **31** They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

32 Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.

They then returned to the city and declared how much God had done for you. So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

When the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

34 When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. **35** Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. **36** Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. **37** Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. **38** The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, **39** "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you."

So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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