

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.

O God, you are wholeness. Where there is division in your church, bring reconciliation and healing. Guide the work of theologians, Sunday school teachers, seminary professors, and all who provide instruction for the building up of your church. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

O God, you are the source of all life. Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal. Bless farmers, ranchers, distributors, and all who provide our food. Nourish the land and all its habitants. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

O God, you are wisdom. Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice. Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others, especially military personnel, police, first responders, and activists, and for the healing of the nations. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 127. Tuesday Colossians 4:2-6. Wednesday Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, 13-14. Thursday Psalm 33:12-22. Friday Ecclesiastes 6:1-6. Saturday Matthew 6:19-24. 9th Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40.

CELEBRATE July 31, 2022 (Lectionary 18) Volume 53, Number 3

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-480) 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 55440-8790. 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 Aaron David Miller. Refrain accompaniment is in Psalter for Worship, Year C (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year C. CELEBRATE is protected through trademark registration in the U.S.A. and Canada.

O God, you are life. Where your people are overwhelmed with the busy-ness of life, bring encouragement. Accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress (especially). Renew us at your table of mercy. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

O God, you are our treasure. Where scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, bring abundance and vitality. Guide the work of church councils and committees and give them clarity for the work of ministry in this place (specific ministries may be named). Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, you are resurrection. We give you thanks for all your saints (especially). Inspire us by their example of faithful living to set our minds on things above and to be rich in love toward you. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. Amen.

Celebrate

Sunday, July 31, 2022
8th Sunday after Pentecost

Today’s texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the “unhappy business” of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the “things that are above.” To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord’s supper and the encouragement of God’s word.

Prayer of the Day

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.
¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.
^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or fool-

ish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.
²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.



My mouth shall speak of wisdom.

Hear this, ¹all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell ²in the world,

³you of high de- ⁴gree and low,

rich and ⁵poor together.

⁶My mouth shall ⁷speak of wisdom,

and my heart shall meditate on ⁸understanding.

⁹I will incline my ear ¹⁰to a proverb

and set forth my riddle up- ¹¹on the harp. **R**

¹²Why should I be afraid in ¹³evil days,

when the wickedness of those at my ¹⁴heels surrounds me,

¹⁵the wickedness of those who trust in ¹⁶their own prowess,

and boast of ¹⁷their great riches?

¹⁸One can never re- ¹⁹deem another,

or give to God the ransom for an- ²⁰other's life;

²¹For the ransom of a life ²²is so great

that there would never be e- ²³nough to pay it,

²⁴in order to live forev- ²⁵er and ever

and never ²⁶I see the grave.

²⁷For we see that the wise die also;

like the dull and stu- ²⁸pid they perish

and leave their wealth to those who come ²⁹after them.

³⁰Their graves shall be their homes forever,

though they had named lands af- ³¹ter themselves.

³²Even though honored, they cannot ³³live forever;

they are like the ³⁴beasts that perish. **R**

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-11

*Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly bapt-
ized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let
go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.*

So if you have been raised with
Christ, seek the things that are
above, where Christ is, seated at the
right hand of God. ²Set your minds
on things that are above, not on
things that are on earth, ³for you
have died, and your life is hidden
with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ
who is your life is revealed, then you
also will be revealed with him in
glory. ⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever
in you is earthly: fornication, impu-
rity, passion, evil desire, and greed
(which is idolatry). ⁶On account of
these the wrath of God is coming on
those who are disobedient. ⁷These

is all and in all!

are the ways you also once followed,
when you were living that life. ⁸But
now you must get rid of all such
things—anger, wrath, malice, slan-
der, and abusive language from your
mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another,
seeing that you have stripped off the
old self with its practices ¹⁰and have
clothed yourselves with the new self,
which is being renewed in knowl-
edge according to the image of its
creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no
longer Greek and Jew, circumcised
and uncircumcised, barbarian,
Scythian, slave and free; but Christ

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

*In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn
against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather
than one's relationship with God.*

Someone in the crowd said to
[Jesus], "Teacher, tell my brother to
divide the family inheritance with
me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend,
who set me to be a judge or arbitra-
tor over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them,
"Take care! Be on your guard against
all kinds of greed; for one's life does
not consist in the abundance of pos-
sessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a par-
able: "The land of a rich man pro-
duced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought
to himself, 'What should I do, for
I have no place to store my crops?'

¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will
pull down my barns and build larger
ones, and there I will store all my
grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say
to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample
goods laid up for many years; relax,
eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said
to him, 'You fool! This very night
your life is being demanded of you.
And the things you have prepared,
whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with
those who store up treasures for
themselves but are not rich toward
God."