

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.

Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners (especially). Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters (especially). Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by racist discrimination, ableist discrimination, and all people discriminated against based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain this assembly. We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep (concerns may be named). In our joy and in our tears, be near us. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints (especially Maximilian Kolbe and Kaj Munk) who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in 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.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (Mary, Mother of Our Lord) Luke 1:46-55. Tuesday Acts 7:44-53. Wednesday Jeremiah 25:30-38. Thursday Psalm 103:1-8. Friday 2 Chronicles 8:12-15. Saturday (commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153) Nehemiah 13:15-22. 11th Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17.

CELEBRATE August 14, 2022 (Lectionary 20) Volume 53, Number 3

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1063-3242, 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 John Paradowski. 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.

Celebrate



Sunday, August 14, 2022
10th Sunday after Pentecost

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

Prayer of the Day

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God’s judgment, he suffers rejection. Today’s reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God’s word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? 24Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. 25I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed, I have dreamed!” 26How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their

own heart? 27They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. 28Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. 29Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?



God stands to charge the divine council assembled,  
 giving judgment in the midst of the gods:  
 "How long will you judge unjustly,  
 and show favor to the wicked?  
 Save the weak and the orphan;  
 defend the humble and needy;  
 rescue the weak and the poor;  
 deliver them from the power of the wicked. **R**  
 They do not know, neither do they understand;  
 they wander about in darkness;  
 all the foundations of the earth are shaken.  
 Now I say to you, 'You are gods,  
 and all of you children of the Most High;  
 nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,  
 and fall like any prince."  
 Arise, O God, and rule the earth,  
 for you shall take all nations for your own. **R**

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.<sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.<sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,<sup>34</sup> quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became overcomers of the world, put foreign armies to flight.<sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others obtained a better resurrection.<sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.<sup>37</sup> They

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which I am to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:  
 father against son  
 and son against father,  
 mother against daughter,  
 and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
 and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."  
 He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"