

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.

For the church and its leaders, we pray. Uphold all deacons, pastors, and bishops who serve and teach your people (*national, synodical, and local leaders may be named*). Awaken in your church a spirit of invitation that reaches ever outward. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of creation and its inhabitants, we pray. Stir in us reverent awe for the beauty of the natural world, for oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, forests and deserts (*local places may be named*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations and peoples of the world, we pray. Sustain the efforts of those who pursue justice and equity for all. Defend and accompany all immigrants and refugees and all who are persecuted for their ethnic origin or religious beliefs. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, we pray. Be present with those who live in isolation or fear, especially those who are incarcerated or detained. Comfort all who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries, we pray. Prepare children, teachers, and youth ministry directors for a new year of learning. Embolden our witness to invite others to the table. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For all the saints who confessed God's name (*especially Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, and Moses the Black*), we give thanks. May we cling to the promise of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. 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, August 28, 2022
12th Sunday after Pentecost

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Proverbs 25:6-7

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;

⁷for it is better to be told,
"Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the
presence of a noble.

or Sirach 10:12-18 [not printed]

The book of Sirach, like the book of Proverbs, is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. In today's reading, the writer warns against the sin of pride, proclaiming that God will utterly overthrow the proud.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 119:65-72. **Tuesday** Titus 1:1-9. **Wednesday** Isaiah 57:14-21. **Thursday** Psalm 1. **Friday** (commemoration of Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, 1872) Colossians 4:7-17. **Saturday** Deuteronomy 29:2-20. **13th Sunday after Pentecost** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33.

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The righ-teous are mer-ci-ful and full of com - pas-sion.

Hallelujah! Happy are they who 'fear the LORD and have great delight in 'God's commands!

²Their descendants will be mighty 'in the land; the generation of the upright 'will be blessed. **R**

³Wealth and riches will be 'in their house, and their righteousness will 'last forever.

⁴Light shines in the darkness 'for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full 'of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be gener- 'ous in lending and to manage their af- 'fairs with justice.

⁶For they will nev- 'er be shaken;

⁷They will not be afraid of any 'evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting 'in the LORD. **R**

⁸Their heart is established and 'will not shrink, until they see their desire up- 'on their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands 'fast forever;

they will hold up their 'head with honor. **R**

¹⁰The wicked will see it and be angry;

they will gnash their teeth and 'pine away; the desires of the wick- 'ed will perish. **R**

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

"What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you;

consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus

Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him,

we were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the

marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adul-

terers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with

what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So

we can say with confidence,

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the

Pharisees to eat a meal on the sab- bath, they were watching him closely. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will

be humbled, and those who humble chose the places of honor, he told

them a parable. ⁸"When you are in- vited by someone to a wedding ban-

quet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more

distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host

who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person

your place; and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that

when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Give this person your place; and then in disgrace you would be repaid. ¹³But when you

may invite you in return, and you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because

they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the

righteous."