

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

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation.

A brief silence.

God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth. Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share your good news with the world. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Divine teacher, you instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources, and guide those who work to develop sustainable practices. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders (especially Dag Hammarskjöld) and

safeguard the dignity of each person. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into economic and social systems that perpetuate poverty and hunger. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters (local outreach may be named). God of grace, hear our prayer.

Sustainer and giver of life, you bless this congregation with abundance. Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources, that we share generously. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us (especially), and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 12. Tuesday 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Wednesday (Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist) Matthew 9:9-13. Thursday Psalm 146. Friday Proverbs 28:3-10. Saturday Proverbs 28:11-28. 16th Sunday after Pentecost Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31.

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Celebrate

Sunday, September 18, 2022
15th Sunday after Pentecost

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

Prayer of the Day

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,

and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Psalm

Psalm 113; refrain, Ps. 113:7



Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;

praise the name of the LORD,

**2**Let the name of the LORD be blessed,

from the rising of the sun to its going down

**3**From the rising of the sun to its going down

let the name of the LORD be praised.

**4**The LORD is high and above all nations,

God's glory and above the heavens. **R**

**5**Who is like the LORD our God,

who sits enthroned on high,

**6**but stoops to behold

the heavens and the earth?

**7**The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust

and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

**8**enthroning them with the rulers,

with the rulers of the people.

**9**The LORD makes the woman of a childless house

to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah! **R**

Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

there is also one mediator

between God and

humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

for all

—this was attested at the right time.

**7**For this I was appointed a herald and

an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am

not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in

faith and truth.

First of all, then, I urge that suppli-

cations, prayers, intercessions, and

thanksgivings be made for everyone,

**2**for kings and all who are in high posi-

tions, so that we may lead a quiet and

peaceable life in all godliness and dig-

nity. **3**This is right and is acceptable in

the sight of God our Savior, **4**who de-

sires everyone to be saved and to come

to the knowledge of the truth. **5**For

there is one God;

Gospel

Luke 16:1-13

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There

was a rich man who had a manager,

and charges were brought to him that

this man was squandering his prop-

erty. **2**So he summoned him and said

to him, "What is this that I hear about

you? Give me an accounting of your

management, because you cannot

be my manager any longer. **3**Then

the manager said to himself, "What

will I do, now that my master is tak-

ing the position away from me? I am

not strong enough to dig, and I am

ashamed to beg. **4**I have decided what

to do so that, when I am dismissed

as manager, people may welcome me

into their homes. **5**So, summoning his

master's debtors one by one, he asked

the first, "How much do you owe my

master?" **6**He answered, "A hundred

jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take

your bill, sit down quickly, and make

it fifty." **7**Then he asked another, "And

how much do you owe?" He replied,

"A hundred containers of wheat." He

eternal homes. **10**"Whoever is faithful in a very little

is faithful also in much; and whoever

is dishonest in a very little is dishonest

est also in much. **11**If then you have

not been faithful with the dishonest

wealth, who will entrust to you the

true riches? **12**And if you have not

been faithful with what belongs to an-

other, who will give you what is your

own? **13**No slave can serve two masters;

love the one, or be devoted to the

one and despise the other. You cannot

serve God and wealth."