

## Prayers of Intercession

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

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of mercy, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your name. Inspire your church to serve and love all people with the unceasing grace you extend to us. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, you formed a world where even the sparrow finds a home. Preserve the beauty and diversity of all creatures with whom we share the earth. Lead us to protect all living things. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, you are an ever-present help in time of trouble. Rescue families and nations torn apart by violence and warfare (*especially*). Unite all people toward common goals of reconciliation and peace for every person. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 84:8-12. **Tuesday** 1 Peter 5:1-11. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Philipp Nicolai, 1608; Johann Heermann, 1647; Paul Gerhardt, 1676; hymnwriters) Matthew 21:28-32. **Thursday** Psalm 32:1-7. **Friday** (Simon and Jude, Apostles) John 14:21-27. **Saturday** Isaiah 1:1-9. **Reformation Sunday** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36.

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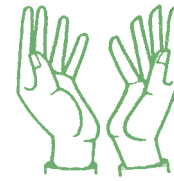
God of hope, you stand with the suffering and give strength. Comfort your people filled with fear or anger, anxiety or shame. Bring healing to all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

God of restoration, you call us to trust in you and not ourselves alone. Make this congregation a community of humility and repentance, ready to encounter you in love and follow in your ways. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of eternal life, to you be the glory forever. We give you thanks for (*James of Jerusalem* and) all who have fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith, and now live with you. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**



# Celebrate

Sunday, October 23, 2022  
20th Sunday after Pentecost

*Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For this we worship and glorify God forever.*

## Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

*In a time of drought, the people pray for mercy, repenting of their sins and the sins of their ancestors. They appeal to God to remember the covenant, to show forth God's power, and to heal their land by sending life-giving rain.*

Although our iniquities testify  
against us,  
act, O LORD, for your name's sake;  
our apostasies indeed are many,  
and we have sinned against you.  
<sup>8</sup>O hope of Israel,  
its savior in time of trouble,  
why should you be like a stranger in  
the land,  
like a traveler turning aside for the  
night?  
<sup>9</sup>Why should you be like someone  
confused,  
like a mighty warrior who cannot  
give help?  
Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us,  
and we are called by your name;  
do not forsake us!

<sup>10</sup>Thus says the LORD concerning this  
people:  
Truly they have loved to wander,  
they have not restrained their feet;  
therefore the LORD does not accept  
them,

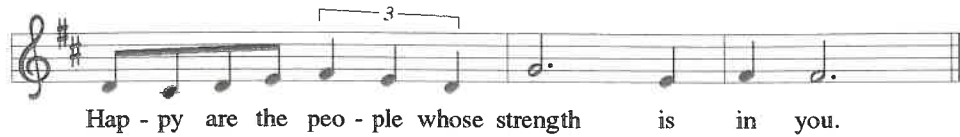
now he will remember their iniquity  
and punish their sins.

<sup>19</sup>Have you completely rejected Judah?  
Does your heart loathe Zion?  
Why have you struck us down  
so that there is no healing for us?  
We look for peace, but find no good;  
for a time of healing, but there is  
terror instead.

<sup>20</sup>We acknowledge our wickedness,  
O LORD,  
the iniquity of our ancestors,  
for we have sinned against you.

<sup>21</sup>Do not spurn us, for your name's  
sake;  
do not dishonor your glorious  
throne;  
remember and do not break your  
covenant with us.

<sup>22</sup>Can any idols of the nations bring  
rain?  
Or can the heavens give showers?  
Is it not you, O LORD our God?  
We set our hope on you,  
for it is you who do all this.



How dear to me <sup>1</sup> is your dwelling,

O <sup>1</sup> LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup>My soul has a desire and longing for the courts <sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the <sup>1</sup> living God.

<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow has found a home,  
and the swallow a nest where she may <sup>1</sup> lay her young,  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king <sup>1</sup> and my God.

<sup>4</sup>Happy are they who dwell <sup>1</sup> in your house!

They will always be <sup>1</sup> praising you. **R**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are the people whose strength <sup>1</sup> is in you,  
whose hearts are set on the <sup>1</sup> pilgrims' way.

<sup>6</sup>Those who go through the balsam valley  
will find it a <sup>1</sup> place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with <sup>1</sup> pools of water.

<sup>7</sup>They will climb from <sup>1</sup> height to height,  
and the God of gods will be <sup>1</sup> seen in Zion. **R**

*The author of this wisdom book urges readers to give generously to God. The author also asserts that God is a just judge who does not show partiality but listens to the prayers of those who are oppressed and poor.*

## Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

*The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who faced death. Though others let him down, Paul was sure of his faith in the Lord, who stood by him and lent him strength.*

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

<sup>16</sup>At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! <sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Gospel

Luke 18:9-14

*The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.*

[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week;

I give a tenth of all my income.’ <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”