Prayers of Intercession

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

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation (*local agriculture may be named*). Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 36. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153) Acts 7:9-16. **Wednesday** Genesis 47:13-26. **Thursday** Psalm 34:15-22. **Friday** Romans 13:11-14. **Saturday** (Bartholomew, Apostle) John 1:43-51. **14th Sunday after Pentecost** Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69.

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Celebrate

Sunday, August 18, 2024
13th Sunday after Pentecost

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

Prayer of the Day

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
2She has slaughtered her animals,
she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
3She has sent out her servant-girls,
she calls
from the highest places in the town,
4"You that are simple, turn in here!"
To those without sense she says,
5"Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
6Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

Psalm

Psalm 34:9-14; refrain, Ps. 34:10

Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD,
for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.
[10]**The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,**
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing | that is good. R
[11]Come, children, and lis- | ten to me;
I will teach you reverence | for the LORD.
[12]**Who among you takes plea- | sure in life**
and desires long life to en- | joy prosperity?
[13]Keep your | tongue from evil
and your lips from | lying words.
[14]**Turn from evil | and do good;**
seek peace | and pursue it. R

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:15-20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be careful then how you live, not as
unwise people but as wise, [16]making
the most of the time, because the
days are evil. [17]So do not be fool-
ish, but understand what the will
of the Lord is. [18]Do not get drunk
with wine, for that is debauchery;
but be filled with the Spirit, [19]as you
sing psalms and hymns and spiritu-
al songs among yourselves, singing
and making melody to the Lord in
your hearts, [20]giving thanks to God
the Father at all times and for every-
thing in the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ.

Gospel

John 6:51-58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

[Jesus said,] "I am the living bread
that came down from heaven.
Whoever eats of this bread will live
forever; and the bread that I will give
for the life of the world is my flesh."
[52]The Jews then disputed among
themselves, saying, "How can this
man give us his flesh to eat?" [53]So
Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell
you, unless you eat the flesh of the
Son of Man and drink his blood, you
have no life in you. [54]Those who eat
my flesh and drink my blood have
eternal life, and I will raise them
up on the last day; [55]for my flesh
is true food and my blood is true
drink. [56]Those who eat my flesh and
drink my blood abide in me, and I
in them. [57]Just as the living Father
sent me, and I live because of the
Father, so whoever eats me will live
because of me. [58]This is the bread
that came down from heaven, not
like that which your ancestors ate,
and they died. But the one who eats
this bread will live forever."