Prayers of Intercession

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness (*especially*). Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give youth a place of honor and value among us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember those who have gone before us. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865) 1 Kings 17:8-16. **Tuesday** Psalm 56. **Wednesday** (commemoration of The Martyrs of Japan, 1597) Luke 19:41-44. **Thursday** Psalm 138. **Friday** Acts 9:26-31. **Saturday** Judges 3:7-11. **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany** Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11.

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Celebrate

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 2, 2025

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

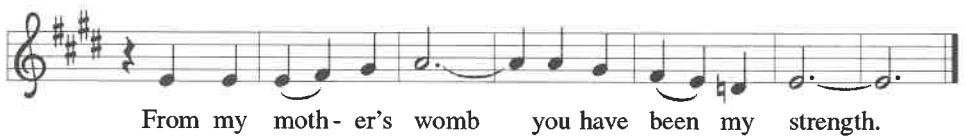
First Reading — Jeremiah 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
5"Before I formed you in the womb
I knew you,
and before you were born
I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
6Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." 7But the LORD said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom
I send you,
and you shall speak whatever
I command you.
8Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD."
9Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,
"Now I have put my words in your mouth.
10See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

Psalm

Psalm 71:1-6; refrain, Ps. 71:6



In you, O Lord, have I | taken refuge;
let me never be | put to shame.
[2]In your righteousness, deliver me and | set me free;
incline your ear to | me and save me.
[3]Be my strong rock, a castle to | keep me safe;
you are my crag | and my stronghold.
[4]Deliver me, my God, from the hand | of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and | the oppressor. R
[5]For you are my hope, | O Lord God,
my confidence since | I was young.
[6]I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have | been my strength;
my praise shall be al- | ways of you. R

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals
and of angels, but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. [2]And if I have prophetic powers,
and understand all mysteries and all
knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as
to remove mountains, but do not have
love, I am nothing. [3]If I give away all
my possessions, and if I hand over my
body so that I may boast, but do not
have love, I gain nothing.

[4]Love is patient; love is kind; love
is not envious or boastful or arrogant
[5]or rude. It does not insist on its own
way; it is not irritable or resentful;
[6]it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth. [7]It bears all
things, believes all things, hopes all
things, endures all things.

[8]Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for
tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. [9]For we
know only in part, and we prophesy
only in part; [10]but when the complete
comes, the partial will come to an
end. [11]When I was a child, I spoke like
a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an
adult, I put an end to childish ways.
[12]For now we see in a mirror, dimly,
but then we will see face to face. Now
I know only in part; then I will know
fully, even as I have been fully known.
[13]And now faith, hope, and love abide,
these three; and the greatest of these
is love.

Gospel

Luke 4:21-30

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in
the synagogue in Nazareth], "Today
this scripture has been fulfilled in
your hearing." [22]All spoke well of
him and were amazed at the gracious
words that came from his mouth.
They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"
[23]He said to them, "Doubtless you will
quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor,
cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do
here also in your hometown the
things that we have heard you did at
Capernaum.'" [24]And he said, "Truly
I tell you, no prophet is accepted in
the prophet's hometown. [25]But the
truth is, there were many widows in
Israel in the time of Elijah, when the
heaven was shut up three years and
six months, and there was a severe
famine over all the land; [26]yet Elijah
was sent to none of them except to a
widow at Zarephath in Sidon. [27]There
were also many lepers in Israel in
the time of the prophet Elisha, and
none of them was cleansed except
Naaman the Syrian." [28]When they
heard this, all in the synagogue were
filled with rage. [29]They got up, drove
him out of the town, and led him to the
brow of the hill on which their town
was built, so that they might hurl him
off the cliff. [30]But he passed through
the midst of them and went on his
way.