Prayers of Intercession

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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Welcoming God, you invite all people to come and encounter your love. Give your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence. Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and congregations. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your might is seen in storms and in silence. Where drought threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your land. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Discerning God, fill the hearts of leaders with your passion for justice and mercy. Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration. Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, all people are held in your care. Accompany survivors of abuse, trauma, and exploitation. Strengthen our resolve to listen and advocate on behalf of all who are unnoticed. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing God, be with this congregation as summer begins in the northern hemisphere. Keep travelers safe. Keep the vulnerable cool. Invigorate summer ministry efforts in our community, and support the well-being of children and young people (*VBS, camp, summer series or other programs may be named*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Loving God, the beginning and the end, you are with us throughout our lives. In gratitude for the saints who have died (*especially Justin, martyr*), we look toward your coming again among us. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 29. **Tuesday** (commemoration of the Martyrs of Uganda, 1886; John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, 1963) 2 Chronicles 5:2-14. **Wednesday** Ezekiel 3:12-21. **Thursday** (commemoration of Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, 754) Psalm 104:24-34, 35b. **Friday** Galatians 6:7-10. **Saturday** (Vigil of Pentecost; commemoration of Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, 1866) John 7:37-39. **Day of Pentecost** Acts 2:1-21 *or* Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17 *or* Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17 [25-27].

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Celebrate

Seventh Sunday of Easter
June 1, 2025

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

Prayer of the Day

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading — Acts 16:16-34

Those who had enslaved a girl and used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for ordering the spirit to come out of her and consequently ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.

One day, as we were going to the place
of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had
a spirit of divination and brought her
owners a great deal of money by for-
tune-telling. 17While she followed Paul
and us, she would cry out, "These men
are slaves of the Most High God, who
proclaim to you a way of salvation."
18She kept doing this for many days.
But Paul, very much annoyed, turned
and said to the spirit, "I order you in
the name of Jesus Christ to come out
of her." And it came out that very hour.
19But when her owners saw that their
hope of making money was gone, they
seized Paul and Silas and dragged
them into the marketplace before the
authorities. 20When they had brought
them before the magistrates, they
said, "These men are disturbing our
city; they are Jews 21and are advocat-
ing customs that are not lawful for us
as Romans to adopt or observe." 22The
crowd joined in attacking them, and
the magistrates had them stripped
of their clothing and ordered them
to be beaten with rods. 23After they
had given them a severe flogging,
they threw them into prison and or-
dered the jailer to keep them securely.
24Following these instructions, he put
them in the innermost cell and fas-
tened their feet in the stocks.
25About midnight Paul and Silas
were praying and singing hymns to
God, and the prisoners were listen-
ing to them. 26Suddenly there was an
earthquake, so violent that the foun-
dations of the prison were shaken;
and immediately all the doors were
opened and everyone's chains were
unfastened. 27When the jailer woke up
and saw the prison doors wide open,
he drew his sword and was about to
kill himself, since he supposed that
the prisoners had escaped. 28But Paul

continued

Psalm

Psalm 97; refrain, Ps. 97:12

The LORD reigns; let the | earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the | isles be glad.
[2]Clouds and darkness sur- | round the LORD,
righteousness and justice are the foundations | of God's throne.
[3]Fire goes be- | fore the LORD,
burning up enemies on | every side.
[4]Lightnings light | up the world;
the earth | sees and trembles.
[5]The mountains | melt like wax
before the Lord of | all the earth.
[6]The heavens declare your righteous- | ness, O LORD,
and all the peoples | see your glory. R
[7]Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!
Bow down before the LORD, | all you gods.
[8]Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,
because of your judg- | ments, O LORD.
[9]For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth;
you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.
[10]You who love the | LORD, hate evil!
God guards the lives of the saints
and rescues them from the hand | of the wicked.
[11]Light dawns | for the righteous,
and joy for the hon- | est of heart.
[12]Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous,
and give thanks to God's | holy name. R

shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." [29]The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. [30]Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" [31]They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." [32]They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. [33]At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. [34]He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Second Reading

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. [13]I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

[14]Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

[16]"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

[17]The Spirit and the bride say,
"Come."
And let everyone who hears say,
"Come."
And let everyone who is thirsty
come.
Let anyone who wishes take the
water of life as a gift.

[20]The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

[21]The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Gospel

John 17:20-26

Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.

[Jesus prayed:] "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, [21]that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. [22]The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, [23]I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. [24]Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

[25]"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. [26]I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."