Prayers of Intercession

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

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division (*places experiencing division may be named*). Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. (*We pray especially for . . . .*) Bless caregivers as they show God's hospitality through their generous service. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed of this community and of the wider church and world. We give thanks for saints of all times and places (*like Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons whom the church remembers today*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (Peter and Paul, Apostles) John 21:15-19. **Tuesday** Psalm 119:161-168. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators) Matthew 11:20-24. **Thursday** Psalm 145:8-14. **Friday** (Thomas, Apostle) John 14:1-7. **Saturday** Luke 10:21-24. **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost** Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

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Celebrate

Sunday, June 28, 2026
5th Sunday after Pentecost

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

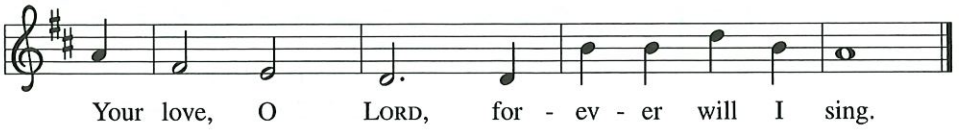
First Reading — Jeremiah 28:5-9

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the
prophet Hananiah in the presence
of the priests and all the people who
were standing in the house of the
LORD, [6]and the prophet Jeremiah
said, "Amen! May the LORD do so;
may the LORD fulfill the words that
you have prophesied and bring back
to this place from Babylon the ves-
sels of the house of the LORD and
all the exiles. [7]But listen now to this
word that I speak in your hearing
and in the hearing of all the people.
[8]The prophets who preceded you
and me from ancient times proph-
esied war, famine, and pestilence
against many countries and great
kingdoms. [9]As for the prophet who
prophesies peace, when the word of
that prophet comes true, then it will
be known that the LORD has truly
sent the prophet."

Psalm

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; refrain, Ps. 89:1



Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.
2**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;**
you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.
3"I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:
4**'I will establish your | line forever,**
and preserve your throne for all | generations.'" ℟
15Happy are the people who know the | festal shout!
They walk, O LORD, in the light | of your presence.
16**They rejoice daily | in your name;**
they are jubilant | in your righteousness.
17For you are the glory | of their strength,
and by your favor our might | is exalted.
18**Truly, our shield belongs | to the LORD;**
our king to the Holy | One of Israel. ℟

Second Reading

Romans 6:12-23

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

Do not let sin reign in your mortal
bodies, so that you obey their desires.
13No longer present your members to
sin as instruments of unrighteous-
ness, but present yourselves to God
as those who have been brought
from death to life, and present your
members to God as instruments of
righteousness. 14For sin will have no
dominion over you, since you are not
under law but under grace.
15What then? Should we sin be-
cause we are not under law but under
grace? By no means! 16Do you not
know that, if you present yourselves
to anyone as obedient slaves, you are
slaves of the one whom you obey, ei-
ther of sin, which leads to death, or
of obedience, which leads to right-
eousness? 17But thanks be to God
that you who were slaves of sin have
become obedient from the heart to
the form of teaching to which you
were entrusted 18and that you, hav-
ing been set free from sin, have
become enslaved to righteousness.
19I am speaking in human terms be-
cause of your limitations. For just as
you once presented your members
as slaves to impurity and lawlessness,
leading to even more lawlessness,
so now present your members as
slaves to righteousness, leading to
sanctification.
20When you were slaves of sin, you
were free in regard to righteousness.
21So what fruit did you then gain
from the things of which you now are
ashamed? The end of those things is
death. 22But now that you have been
freed from sin and enslaved to God,
the fruit you have leads to sanctifica-
tion, and the end is eternal life. 23For
the wages of sin is death, but the free
gift of God is eternal life in Christ
Jesus our Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 10:40-42

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] "Whoever
welcomes you welcomes me, and who-
ever welcomes me welcomes the one
who sent me. 41Whoever welcomes a
prophet in the name of a prophet will
receive a prophet's reward, and who-
ever welcomes a righteous person in
the name of a righteous person will
receive the reward of the righteous,
42and whoever gives even a cup of
cold water to one of these little ones
in the name of a disciple—truly I
tell you, none of these will lose their
reward."