

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

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations (*especially the United States and Canada celebrating their nationhood*). Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Free us from patriotism that hinders relationship-building. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415) Psalm 131. **Tuesday** Jeremiah 28:10-17. **Wednesday** Jeremiah 13:1-11. **Thursday** Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13. **Friday** Romans 15:14-21. **Saturday** (commemoration of Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540) Isaiah 52:1-6. **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931) Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

CELEBRATE July 5, 2020 (Lectionary 14)

Volume 51, Number 3

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 510 Marquette Ave, Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. Periodicals postage paid in Twin Cities, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.90 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings from the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Ray Makeever. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship*, Year A (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our Web site at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year A.

7 of 14
Tracks 1 and 2



Celebrate

Sunday, July 5, 2020
5th Sunday after Pentecost

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter
Jerusalem!

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of
the earth.

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood
of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from
the waterless pit.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from
Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to
the nations;

¹²Return to your stronghold,
O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to
you double.

The LORD is gra-cious and full of com-pas-sion, the
LORD is full of com-pas-sion.

The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are ¹ good to all,
and your compassion is over ¹ all your works. R**

¹⁰All your works shall praise ¹ you, O LORD,
and your faithful ¹ ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory ¹ of your kingdom
and speak ¹ of your power,**

¹²that all people may know ¹ of your power
and the glorious splendor ¹ of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures through- ¹ out all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words,
and loving in ¹ all your works.**

¹⁴The LORD upholds all ¹ those who fall
and lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down. R

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer

I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:]
“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you,
and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not
mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and

earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”