

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

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you gather your people from east and west, north and south. We pray for the mission of the church throughout the world, that your steadfast love may be made known to all peoples. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You laid the foundations of the earth and the waters are the womb of creation. The morning stars sing your name and all creation shouts for joy. We pray for your blessed creation, that it may continue to flourish and magnify your glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You keep watch over all nations. We pray for countries experiencing violence, hunger, and unrest (*especially*). Guide worldwide and local community organizations in their efforts to establish safety and justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, 1931) Psalm 65. **Tuesday** Exodus 9:13-35. **Wednesday** Mark 6:45-52. **Thursday** (John the Baptist) Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]. **Friday** (commemoration of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530; Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, 1560) 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. **Saturday** Lamentations 2:18-22. **5th Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, 444) Lamentations 3:22-33 *or* Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43.

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You are close to the brokenhearted and near to those in distress. We pray for those who are experiencing oppression. Liberate us from the systems and chains that bind us. Remove the barriers that separate us from one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You dwell with us in this faith community. We pray for our leaders and elders (*especially*). Grant them knowledge, patience, and kindness, that through their leadership you may be exalted in this assembly. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your love endures in all situations. On this Father's Day, we pray for those who are fathers or wish to be fathers, for those with broken or strained relationships, for those who are missing their fathers, and for fathers who have lost children. Bless and strengthen them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**



Celebrate

Sunday, June 20, 2021
4th Sunday after Pentecost

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

Prayer of the Day

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Job 38:1-11

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.

The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

²"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸"Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?—

⁹when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors,

¹¹and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped?"



You stilled the storm and si - lenced the waves of the sea.

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy en- dures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

²³Some went down to the sea in ships,
plying their trade in deep waters. **R**

²⁴They beheld the works of the LORD,
God's wonderful works in the deep.

²⁵Then God spoke, and a stormy wind arose,
which tossed high the waves of the sea.

²⁶They mounted up to the heavens and descended to the depths;
their souls melted away in their peril.

²⁷They staggered and reeled like drunkards,
and all their skill was of no avail.

²⁸Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD,
and you delivered them from their distress.

²⁹You stilled the storm to a whisper
and silenced the waves of the sea. **R**

³⁰Then were they glad when it grew calm,
when you guided them to the harbor they desired.

³¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.

³²Let them exalt you in the assembly of the people;
in the council of the elders, let them sing hallelujah! **R**

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,

⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

Gospel

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life's turbulence.

When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to

him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”