

## Prayers of Intercession

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

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of wisdom, enlighten your church. Guide theologians, biblical scholars, authors, and seminary professors as they seek greater knowledge and invite others into deeper understanding. Teach us to ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, mend the earth. Cool warming oceans and preserve melting ice caps. Increase our awareness of changing climate patterns and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face. Shield those in the path of hurricanes or tropical storms (*especially*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, direct our leaders. Grant them courage to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts. Guide them in the work of reconciliation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 36. **Tuesday** Acts 7:9-16. **Wednesday** Genesis 47:13-26. **Thursday** Psalm 34:15-22. **Friday** (commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153) Romans 13:11-14. **Saturday** Luke 11:5-13. **13th Sunday after Pentecost** Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69.

CELEBRATE August 15, 2021 (Lectionary 20)

Volume 52, 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 © 2021 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 during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Kristina Langlois. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our Web site at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year B.  
12 of 13  
CELEBRATE is protected through trademark registration in the U.S.A. and Canada. Track 2



# Celebrate

Sunday, August 15, 2021  
12th Sunday after Pentecost

*Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.*

## Prayer of the Day

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

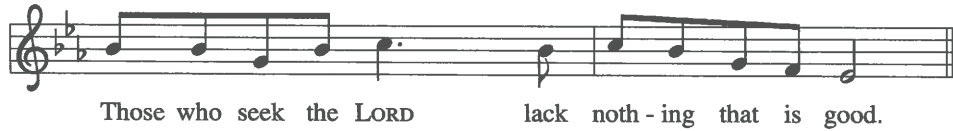
## First Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

*Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.*

Wisdom has built her house,  
she has hewn her seven pillars.  
<sup>2</sup>She has slaughtered her animals,  
she has mixed her wine,  
she has also set her table.  
<sup>3</sup>She has sent out her servant-girls,  
she calls  
from the highest places in the  
town,

<sup>4</sup>"You that are simple, turn in here!"  
To those without sense she says,  
<sup>5</sup>"Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have  
mixed.  
<sup>6</sup>Lay aside immaturity, and live,  
and walk in the way of insight."



- Fear the LORD, you saints <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
 for those who fear the <sup>1</sup> LORD lack nothing.
- <sup>10</sup>**The lions are in want and <sup>1</sup> suffer hunger,  
 but those who seek the LORD lack nothing <sup>1</sup> that is good. R**
- <sup>11</sup>Come, children, and lis- <sup>1</sup> ten to me;  
 I will teach you reverence <sup>1</sup> for the LORD.
- <sup>12</sup>**Who among you takes plea- <sup>1</sup> sure in life  
 and desires long life to en- <sup>1</sup> joy prosperity?**
- <sup>13</sup>Keep your <sup>1</sup> tongue from evil  
 and your lips from <sup>1</sup> lying words.
- <sup>14</sup>**Turn from evil <sup>1</sup> and do good;  
 seek peace <sup>1</sup> and pursue it. R**

*True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>as you

sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Gospel

John 6:51-58

*In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.*

[Jesus said,] "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."  
<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have

eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."