

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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Calling God, you speak with power to your church. Open our hearts and minds to the new things you are declaring. Strengthen bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers of the faith. Equip the baptized for your reconciling and redeeming work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth and in Jesus' baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans, rivers, and watersheds (*local water sources may be named*). Bring relief to parched lands and to communities without access to safe water. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase cooperation and constructive dialogue between nations. Guide local, national, and international authorities to govern with equity, vision, and integrity. We pray for those in military service,

Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 89:5-37. **Tuesday** Jeremiah 1:4-10. **Wednesday** Isaiah 51:1-16. **Thursday** Psalm 40:1-11. **Friday** Acts 1:1-5. **Saturday** 1 Kings 19:19-21. **Second Sunday after Epiphany** (commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968) Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42.

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for peacemakers, and for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire synodical leaders and congregational councils to serve with imagination and wisdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Promising God, your faithfulness endures throughout all generations. We give thanks for those who have died in Christ, trusting that we will be united with them and all the saints in Christ's resurrection life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**



# Celebrate

Baptism of Our Lord  
January 8, 2023

*In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.*

Prayer of the Day

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

*God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul  
delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the  
nations.

<sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will  
not quench;

he will faithfully bring forth  
justice.

<sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be  
crushed

until he has established justice in  
the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his  
teaching.

<sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and  
stretched them out,

who spread out the earth and  
what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people

upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup>I am the LORD, I have called you in  
righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and  
kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the  
people,

a light to the nations,  
<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the  
dungeon,