



# Celebrate

Sunday, July 6, 2025  
4th Sunday after Pentecost

*God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.*

## Prayer of the Day

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O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 66:10-14

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*Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.*

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad  
for her,  
all you who love her;  
rejoice with her in joy,  
all you who mourn over her—  
<sup>11</sup>that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast;  
that you may drink deeply with delight  
from her glorious bosom.

<sup>12</sup>For thus says the LORD:  
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,  
and the wealth of the nations like an  
overflowing stream;  
and you shall nurse and be carried on  
her arm,  
and dandled on her knees.

<sup>13</sup>As a mother comforts her child,  
so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup>You shall see, and your heart shall  
rejoice;  
your bodies shall flourish like the  
grass;  
and it shall be known that the hand of  
the LORD is with his servants,  
and his indignation is against  
his enemies.



All the earth bows down be-fore you and sings out your name.

- Be joyful in God, <sup>1</sup>all you lands;  
be joyful, <sup>1</sup>all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup>**Sing the glory <sup>1</sup>of God's name;**  
**sing the glory <sup>1</sup>of God's praise.**
- <sup>3</sup>Say to God, "How awesome <sup>1</sup>are your deeds!  
Because of your great strength your enemies <sup>1</sup>cringe before you.
- <sup>4</sup>**All the earth bows <sup>1</sup>down before you,**  
**sings to you, sings <sup>1</sup>out your name." R**
- <sup>5</sup>Come now and see the <sup>1</sup>works of God,  
how awesome are God's deeds <sup>1</sup>toward all people.
- <sup>6</sup>**God turned the sea into dry land,**  
**so that they went through the wa- <sup>1</sup>ter on foot,**  
**and there we re- <sup>1</sup>joiced in God.**
- <sup>7</sup>Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch o- <sup>1</sup>ver the nations;  
let no rebels ex- <sup>1</sup>alt themselves.
- <sup>8</sup>**Bless our <sup>1</sup>God, you peoples;**  
**let the sound of <sup>1</sup>praise be heard.**
- <sup>9</sup>Our God has kept us a- <sup>1</sup>mong the living  
and has not allowed our <sup>1</sup>feet to slip. **R**

*In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one another in “the family of faith.”*

[My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup>All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. <sup>5</sup>For all must carry their own loads.

<sup>6</sup>Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. <sup>8</sup>If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup>So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if

we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

<sup>11</sup>See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! <sup>12</sup>It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup>Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. <sup>14</sup>May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup>For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup>As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

## Gospel

## Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

*Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.*

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup>Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup>Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup>Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ <sup>6</sup>And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup>Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. <sup>8</sup>Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup>cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The

kingdom of God has come near to you.’

<sup>10</sup>But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup>“Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.”

<sup>16</sup>“Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

<sup>17</sup>The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” <sup>18</sup>He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. <sup>19</sup>See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

# Prayers of Intercession

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

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

You send your church into the world with a message of peace. Center the whole church in this peace, and strengthen our faith by the example of (*Jan Hus and*) all those who creatively and faithfully proclaim your good news. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All the earth sings out your name. Inspire your people to drink deeply from the beauty of (*local natural beauty and*) all your creation. When ecosystems are wounded, bring your healing. When our actions endanger the survival of other species, curb our greed and waste. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You call us to work for the good of all. Give resolve to those who lead, that they do not grow weary in doing what is right. Guide them to seek peace between nations and freedom for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us. Bring this comfort to those in any pain (*especially*). Carry your people when grief is heavy, and lift burdens of shame and self-doubt. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your harvest is plentiful, O God. Make us laborers and companions with one another in this assembly. Send your peace to rest upon us, heal divisions among us, and open our hearts to receive one another as gifts from you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You have written our names in heaven, O God, and we rejoice. We thank you for those who have lived and died in your love. Accompany us on our life's journey and draw us at last to life forever in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 119:73-80. **Tuesday** Jeremiah 8:4-13. **Wednesday** Joshua 23:1-16. **Thursday** Psalm 25:1-10. **Friday** (commemoration of Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c. 540) Genesis 41:37-49. **Saturday** (commemoration of Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, 1931) Leviticus 19:1-4, 32-37. **5th Sunday after Pentecost** Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37.

CELEBRATE July 6, 2025 (Lectionary 14)

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