



Celebrate

Sunday, August 31, 2025
12th Sunday after Pentecost

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel’s leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today’s reading is about humility.

Do not put yourself forward in the
king’s presence
or stand in the place of the great;

^{7a}for it is better to be told,
“Come up here,”
than to be put lower in the
presence of a noble.

or Sirach 10:12-18 [not printed]

The book of Sirach, like the book of Proverbs, is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. In today’s reading, the writer warns against the sin of pride, proclaiming that God will utterly overthrow the proud.



- Hallelujah! Happy are they who ¹ fear the LORD
and have great delight in ¹ God's commandments!
- ²**Their descendants will be mighty ¹ in the land;
the generation of the upright ¹ will be blessed. R**
- ³Wealth and riches will be ¹ in their house,
and their righteousness will ¹ last forever.
- ⁴**Light shines in the darkness ¹ for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full ¹ of compassion.**
- ⁵It is good for them to be gener- ¹ ous in lending
and to manage their af- ¹ fairs with justice.
- ⁶**For they will nev- ¹ er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- ¹ ing remembrance. R**
- ⁷They will not be afraid of any ¹ evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting ¹ in the LORD.
- ⁸**Their heart is established and ¹ will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- ¹ on their enemies.**
- ⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands ¹ fast forever;
they will hold up their ¹ head with honor.
- ¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and ¹ pine away;
the desires of the wick- ¹ ed will perish. R**

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to

you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Prayers of Intercession

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

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations (*leaders may be named*), we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor/Labour Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 119:65-72. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, 1872) Titus 1:1-9. **Wednesday** Isaiah 57:14-21. **Thursday** Psalm 1. **Friday** Colossians 4:7-17. **Saturday** Deuteronomy 29:2-20. **13th Sunday after Pentecost** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1:21; Luke 14:25-33.

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