

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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened (*places may be named*). Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need (*especially*). Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance (*especially Lawrence, deacon and martyr*). Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



# Celebrate

Sunday, August 10, 2025  
9th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord **GOD**, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my

heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** (commemoration of Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, 1253) Psalm 89:1-18. **Tuesday** Hebrews 11:17-28. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Florence Nightingale, 1910; Clara Maass, 1901; renewers of society) Luke 12:41-48. **Thursday** (commemoration of Maximilian Kolbe, 1941; Kaj Munk, 1944; martyrs) Psalm 82. **Friday** (Mary, Mother of Our Lord) Luke 1:46-55. **Saturday** 1 Samuel 6:1-16. **10th Sunday after Pentecost** Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29—12:2; Luke 12:49-56.

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Happy is the nation whose God <sup>1</sup> is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to <sup>1</sup> be God's heritage!

<sup>13</sup>**The LORD looks <sup>1</sup> down from heaven,  
and sees all <sup>1</sup> humankind.**

<sup>14</sup>God sits firmly en-<sup>1</sup> throned and watches  
all who dwell <sup>1</sup> on the earth.

<sup>15</sup>**God fashions <sup>1</sup> all their hearts  
and observes <sup>1</sup> all their deeds. R**

<sup>16</sup>A king is not saved by the size <sup>1</sup> of the army,  
nor are warriors rescued by <sup>1</sup> their great strength.

<sup>17</sup>**The horse gives vain <sup>1</sup> hope for victory;  
despite its great strength it <sup>1</sup> cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup>Truly, your eye is upon those who fear <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD,  
upon those who wait for your <sup>1</sup> steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup>**to deliver their <sup>1</sup> lives from death,  
and to keep them alive in <sup>1</sup> time of famine. R**

<sup>20</sup>Our innermost being waits for <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD,  
our helper <sup>1</sup> and our shield.

<sup>21</sup>**Surely, our heart rejoic-<sup>1</sup> es in you,  
for in your holy name we <sup>1</sup> put our trust.**

<sup>22</sup>Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, <sup>1</sup> be upon us,  
even as we place our <sup>1</sup> hope in you. R

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself

was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

## Gospel

Luke 12:32-40

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

[Jesus said:] “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are

those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”