

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

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

God of freedom, you ransomed Israel from slavery to be a holy people. As we observe Juneteenth this coming week, free us also to be a people who proclaim your liberating love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, you call all the earth to make a joyful noise to you. Let us join the chorus of the natural world in proclaiming your glory. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, you sent Jesus as peace for all of humankind. Bring an end to war and conflict, bring hope to places devastated by destruction (*especially*), and sustain those who advocate for peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45. **Tuesday** 2 Thessalonians 2:13—3:5. **Wednesday** (commemoration of the Emanuel Nine, martyrs, died 2015) Proverbs 4:10-27. **Thursday** Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18. **Friday** Acts 5:17-26. **Saturday** Jeremiah 20:1-6. **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931) Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39.

God of grace, you pour hope and love into our hearts in times of shame and doubt. Protect those experiencing housing insecurity. Uplift anyone struggling with hopelessness, illness, or other worries (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, you call your children to serve in a plentiful harvest. Give us the wisdom to know how best to serve our local community and our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of faith, we give thanks for (*Marcrina, Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus, and all*) the saints who earnestly seek you. Guide us as we seek to follow those who have led your church. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**



Celebrate

Sunday, June 14, 2026
3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Exodus 19:2-8a

At Sinai God assured Israel, "You shall be my treasured possession," and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God's will.

[The Israelites] journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.³ Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my

treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶ but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation." These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

⁷ So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ^{8a} The people all answered as one, "Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do."



We are God's peo - ple and the sheep of God's pas-ture.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all you lands!

²Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence | with a song.

³**Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom | we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep | of God's pasture. R**

⁴Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving
and the | courts with praise;

give thanks and bless God's | holy name.

⁵**Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is | everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from | age to age. R**

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-8

We are no longer God's enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ's death.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love

has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Gospel

Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

^{10:1}Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food.

¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶"I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in this town, flee to the next, for truly I tell you, you will not have finished going through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."]