Prayers of Intercession

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

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you gather your people from east and west, north and south. We pray for the mission of the church throughout the world, that your steadfast love may be made known to all peoples. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You laid the foundations of the earth and the waters are the womb of creation. The morning stars sing your name and all creation shouts for joy. We pray for your blessed creation, that it may continue to flourish and magnify your glory. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You keep watch over all nations. We pray for countries experiencing violence, hunger, and unrest (*especially*). Guide worldwide and local community organizations in their efforts to establish safety and justice. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are close to the brokenhearted and near to those in distress. We pray for those who are experiencing oppression. Liberate us from the systems and chains that bind us. Remove the barriers that separate us from one another. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You dwell with us in this faith community. We pray for our leaders and elders (*especially*). Grant them knowledge, patience, and kindness, that through their leadership you may be exalted in this assembly. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your love endures in all situations. On this Father's Day, we pray for those who are fathers or wish to be fathers, for those with broken or strained relationships, for those who are missing their fathers, and for fathers who have lost children. Bless and strengthen them. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, 1931) Psalm 65. **Tuesday** Exodus 9:13-35. **Wednesday** Mark 6:45-52. **Thursday** (John the Baptist) Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]. **Friday** (commemoration of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530; Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, 1560) 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. **Saturday** Lamentations 2:18-22. **5th Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, 444) Lamentations 3:22-33 *or* Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43.

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 510 Marquette Ave, Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. Periodicals postage paid in Twin Cities, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part $4.90 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Aaron David Miller. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our Web site at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year B.
CELEBRATE is protected through trademark registration in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Celebrate

Sunday, June 20, 2021
4th Sunday after Pentecost

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

Prayer of the Day

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading — Job 38:1-11

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.

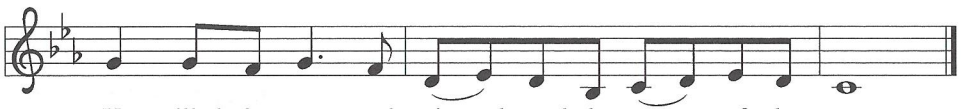
The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:
2"Who is this that darkens
counsel by words without
knowledge?
3Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall
declare to me.

4"Where were you when I laid the
foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have
understanding.
5Who determined its
measurements—surely you
know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
6On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
7when the morning stars sang
together
and all the heavenly beings
shouted for joy?

8"Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the
womb?—
9when I made the clouds its
garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling
band,
10and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,
11and said, 'Thus far shall you come,
and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves
be stopped'?"

Psalm

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; refrain, Ps. 107:29



Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.
[2]Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,
[3]gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.
[23]Some went down to the | sea in ships,
plying their trade | in deep waters. R
[24]They beheld the works | of the LORD,
God's wonderful works | in the deep.
[25]Then God spoke, and a stormy | wind arose,
which tossed high the waves | of the sea.
[26]They mounted up to the heavens and descended | to the depths;
their souls melted away | in their peril.
[27]They staggered and | reeled like drunkards,
and all their skill was of | no avail.
[28]Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD,
and you delivered them from | their distress.
[29]You stilled the storm | to a whisper
and silenced the waves | of the sea. R
[30]Then were they glad when | it grew calm,
when you guided them to the harbor | they desired.
[31]Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.
[32]Let them exalt you in the assembly | of the people;
in the council of the elders, let them sing | hallelujah! R

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.

As we work together with him, we
urge you also not to accept the grace
of God in vain. [2]For he says,
"At an acceptable time I have
listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have
helped you."
See, now is the acceptable time; see,
now is the day of salvation! [3]We are
putting no obstacle in anyone's way,
so that no fault may be found with
our ministry, [4]but as servants of God
we have commended ourselves in
every way: through great endurance,
in afflictions, hardships, calamities,
[5]beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; [6]by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness,
holiness of spirit, genuine love,
[7]truthful speech, and the power
of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and
for the left; [8]in honor and dishonor,
in ill repute and good repute. We
are treated as impostors, and yet
are true; [9]as unknown, and yet are
well known; as dying, and see—we
are alive; as punished, and yet not
killed; [10]as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many
rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.
[11]We have spoken frankly to you
Corinthians; our heart is wide open
to you. [12]There is no restriction in
our affections, but only in yours. [13]In
return—I speak as to children—
open wide your hearts also.

Gospel

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life's turbulence.

When evening had come, [Jesus said
to the disciples,] "Let us go across
to the other side." [36]And leaving the
crowd behind, they took him with
them in the boat, just as he was.
Other boats were with him. [37]A great
windstorm arose, and the waves beat
into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. [38]But he was
in the stern, asleep on the cushion;
and they woke him up and said to
him, "Teacher, do you not care that
we are perishing?" [39]He woke up
and rebuked the wind, and said to
the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the
wind ceased, and there was a dead
calm. [40]He said to them, "Why are
you afraid? Have you still no faith?"
[41]And they were filled with great awe
and said to one another, "Who then
is this, that even the wind and the
sea obey him?"