

Prayers of Intercession

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

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. (We pray especially for . . .) In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities (ministries may be named). Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations (organizations may be named). In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you (especially). In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday, July 14, 2024: 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Amos 7:7-15

⁷This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand.

⁸And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words.

¹¹For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.’”

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who
turn their | hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land. R

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has
blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly
places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the
world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined
us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to
the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace
that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have
redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all
wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his
will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as
a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things
in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an
inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him
who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so
that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live
for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard
the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in
him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this
is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own
people, to the praise of his glory.

Gospel: Mark 6:14-29

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls
the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and
his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the
gospel of salvation.

¹⁴King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name
had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has
been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at
work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It
is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod
heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound
him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother
Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been
telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's
wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to
kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that
he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When
he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen
to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday
gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of
Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she
pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask
me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly
swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half
of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What
should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."
²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want
you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."
²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and
for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the
king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head.
He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a
platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.
²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body,
and laid it in a tomb.