

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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

Blessed are those whose trust is in you. Strengthen the faith of those who profess your name and bring reassurance to those who doubt or fear. Through your church speak continued blessing into the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Those who trust in you are like trees planted by streams of water. Bless fruit trees with an abundant harvest. Protect rainforests from destruction. Restore land that has eroded after deforestation. Resurrect woodlands after forest fires. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Search the hearts of those who govern, that they lead with humility. Inspire leaders to collaborate on policies that protect people and the planet. Sustain truth-tellers and social movements that challenge society to become more honest and just. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Cyril, monk, 869; Methodius, bishop, 885; missionaries to the Slavs) Psalm 120. **Tuesday** 2 Corinthians 1:12-19. **Wednesday** Jeremiah 22:11-17. **Thursday** Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40. **Friday** (commemoration of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, 1546) 1 John 2:12-17. **Saturday** Luke 12:57-59. **Seventh Sunday after Epiphany** Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38.

Send your blessings of mercy upon those who long for consolation. Tend to those struggling with poverty, unemployment, or uncertainty. Provide for all who are hungry. Console those who face persecution. Grant peace to all who suffer (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renew this congregation in our shared mission. As we plan and dream for the future you are preparing, inspire us by the examples of Martin Luther and all the reformers. Bless new projects and new ministry partnerships. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Christ is raised from the dead, and so we cling to the hope of the resurrection. We praise you for the lives of the saints who lived and died in the hope of eternal life with you (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**



Celebrate

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 13, 2022

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed ones” and the “woe to’s” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

Prayer of the Day

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

Thus says the LORD:
Cursed are those who trust in mere
mortals
and make mere flesh their
strength,
whose hearts turn away from
the LORD.
⁶They shall be like a shrub in the
desert,
and shall not see when relief
comes.
They shall live in the parched places
of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in
the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted
by water,
sending out its roots by the
stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not
anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.
⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
¹⁰I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their
doings.



They are like trees plant-ed by streams of wa - ter.

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel ¹ of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats ¹ of the scornful!

**²Their delight is in the law ¹ of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching ¹ day and night. R**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ¹ do not wither;
everything they ¹ do shall prosper.

**⁴It is not so ¹ with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind ¹ blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when ¹ judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council ¹ of the righteous.

**⁶For the LORD knows the way ¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall ¹ be destroyed. R**

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it

is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom
of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are
hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your
consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing
now,

for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”