

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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all laborers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of those who are oppressed and grant them compassion to deal mercifully with immigrants and refugees who reside among us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, 202) Psalm 17. **Tuesday** Zechariah 3:1-10. **Wednesday** Job 1:1-22. **Thursday** (commemoration of Harriet Tubman, 1913; Sojourner Truth, 1883; renewers of society) Psalm 27. **Friday** Philippians 3:17-20. **Saturday** (commemoration of Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604) Psalm 118:26-29. **Second Sunday in Lent** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35.

CELEBRATE March 6, 2022

Volume 53, Number 2

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, 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 © 2022 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 Carl Schalk. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year C* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year C. CELEBRATE is protected through trademark registration in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Tracks 1 and 2



Celebrate

First Sunday in Lent

March 6, 2022

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your

God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it

continued

God will give the an - gels
charge o - ver you, to guard you in all your ways.

You who dwell in the shelter of ¹ the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of ¹ the Almighty—
²**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge ¹ and my stronghold,
my God in whom I ¹ put my trust.” R**

⁹Because you have made the ¹ LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your ¹ habitation,

¹⁰**no evil ¹ will befall you,
nor shall affliction come ¹ near your dwelling.**

¹¹For God will give the angels charge ¹ over you,
to guard you in ¹ all your ways.

¹²**Upon their hands they will ¹ bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a - ¹ gainst a stone. R**

¹³You will tread upon the lion ¹ cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion ¹ and the serpent.

¹⁴**I will deliver those who ¹ cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they ¹ know my name.**

¹⁵They will call me, and I will ¹ answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and ¹ honor them.

¹⁶**With long life will I ¹ satisfy them,
and show them ¹ my salvation. R**

First Reading, continued

down before the LORD your God and
bow down before the LORD your God.
¹¹Then you, together with the Levites
and the aliens who reside among you,

shall celebrate with all the bounty that
the LORD your God has given to you
and to your house.

Second Reading

Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we pro-
claim); ⁹because if you confess with
your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe
in your heart that God raised him
from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For
one believes with the heart and so is
justified, and one confesses with the

mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture
says, “No one who believes in him will
be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no dis-
tinction between Jew and Greek; the
same Lord is Lord of all and is gen-
erous to all who call on him. ¹³For,
“Everyone who calls on the name of
the Lord shall be saved.”

Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned
from the Jordan and was led by the
Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for
forty days he was tempted by the devil.
He ate nothing at all during those
days, and when they were over, he was
famished. ³The devil said to him, “If
you are the Son of God, command
this stone to become a loaf of bread.”
⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written,
‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵Then the devil led him up and
showed him in an instant all the king-
doms of the world. ⁶And the devil
said to him, “To you I will give their
glory and all this authority; for it has
been given over to me, and I give it
to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will
worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus
answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

⁹Then the devil took him to
Jerusalem, and placed him on the pin-
nacle of the temple, saying to him, “If
you are the Son of God, throw your-
self down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,
‘He will command his angels
concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹and

‘On their hands they will bear you
up,
so that you will not dash your
foot against a stone.’”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do
not put the Lord your God to the
test.’” ¹³When the devil had finished
every test, he departed from him until
an opportune time.