

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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You gather your church together by the Holy Spirit. Inspire all the baptized to proclaim your abundant love throughout the world. Guide us in the mission of the gospel through word and deed. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You cherish your creation, from the smallest microbe to the largest mountain. Protect fragile ecosystems, send favorable weather, supply food and water to nourish creatures, and raise us up to care for all you have created. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You desire peace and justice in the world: Instill within all political leaders your desire, support the work of international peace organizations, and provide relief for those in war-torn areas (especially). Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29. Tuesday (commemoration of Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers [Dominicans], died 1221) Acts 2:37-47. Wednesday Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35. Thursday (commemoration of Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258) Psalm 85:8-13. Friday (commemoration of Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253) Acts 18:24-28. Saturday 1 Kings 18:41-46. Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (commemoration of Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society) 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33.

CELEBRATE August 6, 2023 (Lectionary 18) Volume 54, Number 3

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 \$5.79 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 © 2023 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 Ray Makeever. Refrain accompaniment is in Psalter for Worship, Year A (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year A. 12 of 14 CELEBRATE is protected through trademark registration in the U.S.A. and Canada. Tracks 1 and 2



Celebrate

Sunday, August 6, 2023 10th Sunday after Pentecost

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Prayer of the Day

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-5

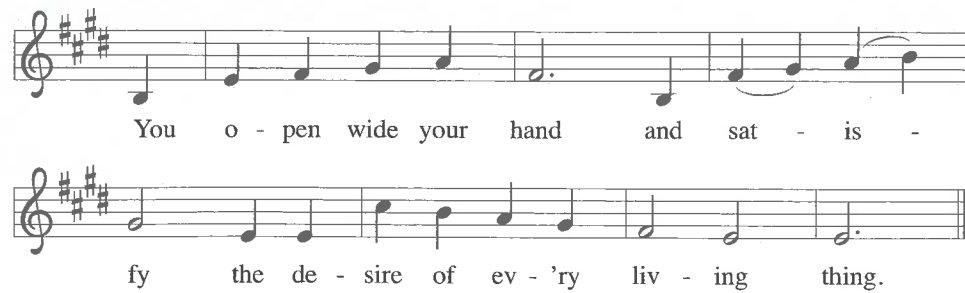
God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Psalm

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; refrain, Ps. 145:16



You o - pen wide your hand and sat - is -
fy the de - sire of ev - 'ry liv - ing thing.

The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are ¹ good to all,
and your compassion is over ¹ all your works. R**

¹⁴The LORD upholds all ¹ those who fall
and lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon ¹ you, O LORD,
and you give them their food ¹ in due season.**

¹⁶You open ¹ wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every ¹ living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in ¹ all your ways
and loving in ¹ all your works. R**

¹⁸You are near to all who ¹ call upon you,
to all who call up- ¹ on you faithfully.

¹⁹**You fulfill the desire of ¹ those who fear you;
you hear their ¹ cry and save them.**

²⁰You watch over all ¹ those who love you,
but all the wicked you ¹ shall destroy.

²¹**My mouth shall speak the praise ¹ of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forev- ¹ er and ever. R**

Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the

flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you

give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.