

Holy Cross at Prayer



Pentecost 4 to Pentecost 10, Series C
July 3 to August 20, 2022

SUNDAY (July 3, 2022)
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

""The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."" (Luke 10:16)

READING

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" (Luke 10:1-9)

MEDITATION

Jesus is the Kingdom of God. Where Jesus is, there is God's kingdom and God's peace. That is the message that Christ sends out into all the world. This is the message He brings to you this day. God is with you now, in His Word given to you.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Let your grace be upon Charles (Froh), O Lord, and give him hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (July 4, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

""The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."" (Luke 10:16)

READING

""The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."" (Luke 10:16-20)

MEDITATION

Jesus gives authority to His disciples to speak His Word with authority. They do not speak for themselves, but for God. This is not in order to give them power over others. This is because God is at work through them, forgiving sins by the preaching of His Word. This is still true today, every time we hear the Word of God proclaimed in all its truth and purity.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Rick (Meynen) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross his path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (July 5, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

""The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."" (Luke 10:16)

READING

"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load." (Galatians 6:1-5)

MEDITATION

Notice the language St. Paul uses. We are caught in a transgression or sin. Sin is always a trap that entangles us and would bring us down. When we as Christ's Church work to bring forgiveness and healing to those trapped by their own sin, we do so with gentleness and care. And we do this knowing that each one of us has been trapped by our own sin and wrongdoing. No one is above another. We are all under the mercy of God.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Robin (Rogers) this day. Give her your grace and teach her to learn more of your mercy this day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (July 6, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

""The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."" (Luke 10:16)

READING

"Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:6-10)

MEDITATION

It's easy to get tired of doing good, isn't it? It is easy to feel unappreciated, to feel like you've been walked on just for doing the right thing. It was no different in St. Paul's day. That is why he reminds us to not grow weary. In due season we will reap. We don't know when that season will be. All we can do is what God has placed before us in His mercy. He will bring about the increase.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Diane (Davis) this day, O Lord, and show her your great love throughout all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (July 7, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

""The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."" (Luke 10:16)

READING

"But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen." (Galatians 6:14-18)

MEDITATION

Our boasting is not in our good works. Our boasting is not in our family or in our jobs or looks or stuff we own or friends we have. At the end of the day, all that matters is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. When you have that, you have the grace of God surrounding you. What more could we possibly need?

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to JoAnn (Dusky) this day, as she goes about the callings you have given to her. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (July 8, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

""The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."" (Luke 10:16)

READING

""Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her; that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance."" (Isaiah 66:10-11)

MEDITATION

Jerusalem is the Church of God. We mourn over her sometimes, because she bears much sorrow and pain for her children. But from her we receive the "pure milk of the Word" like newborn babes. There is more than enough to go around. Drink, and be satisfied with God's riches delivered to you!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Vicki (Schwermann) before you this day, asking that You would give her your mercy all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (July 9, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

""The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."" (Luke 10:16)

READING

"For thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass; and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants, and he shall show his indignation against his enemies." (Isaiah 66:12-14)

MEDITATION

God promises to comfort us in His Church, His own Jerusalem. We are a comfort place, for it is here that God gives us His wholesome Word and Spirit. Here is where God will change your sorrows into joy, because He has defeated all of our enemies, sin, death, and the power of the devil himself. Thanks be to God!

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Kim (Lunsford) Bless her now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (July 10, 2022)

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14)

READING

"And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God. You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD." (Leviticus 18:1-5)

MEDITATION

God starts this section in Leviticus with the simple phrase, "I am the Lord your God." That is where everything begins. He is our God. He is the one who saves us. The reason that He calls the people not to walk in the statutes of the Cannanite gods is because their ways lead to death. His way leads to life. It is that simple.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Gloria (Radmore), O Lord, and give her hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (July 11, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14)

READING

""When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God. "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD." (Leviticus 19:9-12)

MEDITATION

What God is teaching us here is that we do not need to hoard and operate out of fear. He will provide. That is His identity. And He uses sinners like you and me to care for the poor and the stranger. That is how they learn that God provides, through us. Walking in His ways means trusting that He will care for us, just as we care for those around us. Our God is generous.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Heavenly Father, bless Rebecca (Cain) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross his path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (July 12, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14)

READING

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit." (Colossians 1:1-8)

MEDITATION

St. Paul calls the church in Colossae "saints". Saints is a word which simply means "holy ones". This means that they (and we) have been set apart by God for His holy purposes. We are all God's saints, His holy ones. This holiness does not come from what we do. What we do comes from who we are in Him. And He is the one who shapes us into His holy image. Thanks be to God for that!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Tara (Fintel) this day. Give her your grace and teach her to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (July 13, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14)

READING

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:9-14)

MEDITATION

St. Paul here prays that the church will learn knowledge, wisdom and understanding. These do not come naturally for us, because of sin. But God in His mercy qualifies us as His saints, delivers us from darkness, and transfers us into the Kingdom of His Son, Jesus Christ.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with Brent (Mooney) this day, O Lord, and show him your great love throughout all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (July 14, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14)

READING

"And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:25-29)

MEDITATION

So often when it comes to serving our neighbor (those in need around us), our motivation isn't exactly pure. Here the lawyer wants to know "who is my neighbor?" In other words, his question is, "what is the least that I can get away with doing and still do God's will?" As long as we think of doing God's will as a way for us to get something, there will be trouble. The point isn't about how little I can do. The point is that there are people in need all around me, and God uses me and you to care for them.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Katie (Erickson) this day, as she goes about the callings you have given to her. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (July 15, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14)

READING

"Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."" (Luke 10:30-37)

MEDITATION

The Samaritan does not care about how he will be affected by helping the man. The point is that the man needs help, and so he helps him. In the same way God looks at you and me and says "whatever the cost, I will help." Thanks be to God for His mercy in Jesus Christ!

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Father, we lift up Ellen (Mooney) before you this day, asking that You would give her your mercy all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (July 16, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14)

READING

"Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him; the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies. The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health." (Psalms 41:1-3)

MEDITATION

There is an amazing tie in the Bible between faith and how we consider those in need. Sometimes it is easy to become uncomfortable about the connection. But again and again we hear the basic idea that how you treat the helpless and those in need is a reflection of what is truly important to you. In the same way, God considers each one of us, no matter poor or lonely or sinful or needy we may be. That is God's character. He cares for all.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Norma (Hashimoto). Bless her now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (July 17, 2022)

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1)

READING

"And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."" (Genesis 18:1-5)

MEDITATION

This is a famous story of what is called a theophany, or an appearance of God. God (the LORD) appears to Abraham. We don't know how Abraham knew it was God, only that he recognized the LORD when he saw Him. Abraham was graced by a visit from God. But Abraham is not alone. We are graced by God's presence week after week, whenever His Word is proclaimed in our midst.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Joshua (Williams), O Lord, and give him hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (July 18, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1)

READING

"And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.'" (Genesis 18:6-10)

MEDITATION

Children are a blessing from God. Here God promises to Abraham that He will visit him and that Abraham and Sarah will have a son. We don't always know and understand God's promises. Sometimes they take years to come to fruition. But God always keeps His promises.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Molly (Jackson) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross her path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (July 19, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1)

READING

"And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."" (Genesis 18:10-14)

MEDITATION

Is anything too hard for the Lord? We certainly act that way. Sarah was ninety years old when her son, Isaac, was born. Sometimes God's promises are so outrageous, so amazing that we cannot even fathom them. Her laugh is not a laugh of joy but of bitterness. But God, who is rich in mercy, will turn her bitter laugh into one of real joy.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Nancy (Stewart) this day. Give her your grace and teach her to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (July 20, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1)

READING

"And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister." (Colossians 1:21-23)

MEDITATION

Alienated and hostile in mind? Isn't that a bit harsh? It is no more harsh than what dwells in us by nature. The sin that dwells within us all leads to hostility toward God and toward each other. What God does in His mercy is reconcile us in His body of flesh by his death. Jesus' death breaks down the barriers that sin has created. Because of this, you are free to stand before God holy and blameless and above reproach. Thanks be to God!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Marian (Metson) this day, O Lord, and show her your great love throughout all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (July 21, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1)

READING

"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me." (Colossians 1:24-29)

MEDITATION

Notice that St. Paul calls the church the Body of Christ. This is amazing language! We are the body of Christ. That is the mystery hidden for ages and generations. God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, and we now are His very body, living out His love and mercy in the world.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Pat (Short) this day, as she goes about the callings you have given to her. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (July 22, 2022)

St. Mary Magdalene

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1)

READING

"Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.'" (Luke 10:38-42)

MEDITATION

There is a Martha in every one of us. We can get so distracted with serving and caring for others, that we forget it is God who serves and cares for us first of all. Notice that Jesus does not criticize Martha for her love or service. But He calls her (and us) to remember that the good portion is what He Himself gives to us each and every day.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Dennis (Olson) before you this day, asking that You would give him your mercy all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, restored Mary Magdalene to health and called her to be the first witness of His resurrection. Heal us from all our infirmities, and call us to know You in the power of Your Son's unending life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (July 23, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1)

READING

"When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple." (Psalms 27:2-4)

MEDITATION

Where is the house of the Lord? Where His Word dwells, where it is preached and heard and received again and again and again. The house of the Lord is where God feeds His people with His Son's body and blood. Where is the house of the Lord? Where He cleanses us with the waters of Holy Baptism. That is God's house. That is where God keeps all His promises.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Babs (Roeder). Bless her now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (July 24, 2022)

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority." (Colossians 2:9-10)

READING

"Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know." So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD." (Genesis 18:20-22)

MEDITATION

There are consequences to sin. We don't always see it, and we certainly may not like it, but the wages of sin is always death (Romans 6). Here in this famous story God visits the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their great sin. When will God's judgment come? We do not know the day or hour. We only know that it is coming, and we deserve it as much as they did. But, Christ took our judgement. It is only His mercy which can save us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Jean (Soals), O Lord, and give her hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit, teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever more.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (July 25, 2022)

St. James the Elder, Apostle

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority." (Colossians 2:9-10)

READING

"Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."" (Genesis 18:20-26)

MEDITATION

This is the beginning of one of the most remarkable prayers in the Bible. God comes down to visit these wicked cities, intending destruction. His judgment is right and true, and the only one standing between them and death is Abraham. Abraham here points us to Jesus, who stands before God as our merciful advocate and defender.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Gloria (Radmore) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross her path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF ST. JAMES THE ELDER, APOSTLE

O gracious God, Your servant and apostle James was the first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom for the name of Jesus Christ. Pour out upon the leaders of Your Church that spirit of self-denying service that they may forsake all false and passing allurements and follow Christ alone, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (July 26, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority." (Colossians 2:9-10)

READING

"Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place." (Genesis 18:27-33)

MEDITATION

Abraham sure knows how to push things, doesn't he? We hear in Luther's Small Catechism that we are to "pray with all boldness and confidence as dear children ask their dear father." Abraham here teaches us not to be afraid to ask for God's mercy. He may just surprise you!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Dave (Davis) this day. Give him your grace and teach him to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit, teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever more. Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (July 27, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority." (Colossians 2:9-10)

READING

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority." (Colossians 2:6-10)

MEDITATION

It is amazing how ideas can take us captive. There is a deep connection between ideas, lies and satanic power. The love of wisdom (which is what philosophy literally means) can lead to slavery apart from Christ. But we are not apart from Christ. You have been filled in Him. Thanks be to God!

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with John (Martin) this day, O Lord, and show him your great love throughout all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit, teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever more.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (July 28, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority." (Colossians 2:9-10)

READING

"In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him." (Colossians 2:10-15)

MEDITATION

God made you alive together with Him. Only God can create life, and He creates your new life by forgiving your sins. That, and only that, is what disarms Satan and all of the forces arrayed against us. Thanks be to God!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Dennis (Boehle-Silva) this day, as he goes about the callings you have given to him. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit, teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever more.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (July 29, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority." (Colossians 2:9-10)

READING

"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."" (Luke 11:1-4)

MEDITATION

When Jesus teaches us to pray, He does not do so as an abstract idea. He says, "when you pray, say this..." Then He gives us what we know as the Lord's Prayer. Learning how to pray first of all means learning the words that Jesus Himself gives to us. Everything flows from the Word. Even our prayers.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Father, we lift up John (Lunsford) before you this day, asking that You would give him your mercy all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit, teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever more.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (July 30, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority." (Colossians 2:9-10)

READING

"And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:5-13)

MEDITATION

If we know how to take care of our children even though we are evil by nature, how much more does God give us Himself! That's the comparison Jesus makes here. Don't be afraid to ask God for all things in Him. He loves to hear us pray. It is His great delight!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Teresa (Pabst). Bless her now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit, teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever more.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (July 31, 2022)

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind." (Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14)

MEDITATION

There are limits to the wisdom of this world. As long as our desires are limited to the things of this world, we will never be satisfied. It will always end in vanity, a striving after the wind. Only the wisdom of the cross of Jesus Christ can give us true rest.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Miriam (Martin), O Lord, and give her hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (August 1, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity." (Ecclesiastes 2:18-23)

MEDITATION

At the end of the day, all the works of our hands will fail. Things break, people die. God calls us to work and to live and serve our neighbor, not because it is the ultimate end and culmination of our lives. Rather, God calls us to this toil and work for the sake of those around us. Our true joy must come from Him and Him alone.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Ron (Yates) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross his path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (August 2, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind." (Ecclesiastes 2:24-26)

MEDITATION

There is joy to be had in the works of our hands, as long as we are able to see that this is not just the works of our own hands, but is from the hand of God. You are not apart from Him. You have been raised with Christ.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Michelle (Smith) this day. Give her your grace and teach her to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (August 3, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."
(Colossians 3:1-4)

MEDITATION

Hidden with Christ in God. Isn't that a great phrase? Apart from Him, we can do nothing. But in Him, we are seated at the right hand of God. The things of this earth fail in the end. But the things above (higher things) will never fail, because that is where Christ our life dwells.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Ben (Hull) this day, O Lord, and show him your great love throughout all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (August 4, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all." (Colossians 3:5-11)

MEDITATION

There is a theme that runs through all these sins, and it is selfishness. Sin is self-serving and always harms those around us. There is no such thing as a "victimless" sin. Nor is our sin against some arbitrary or random set of rules that God has set up. Be free from these sins, and be renewed in your creator and redeemer.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Freya (Davis) this day, as she goes about the callings you have given to her. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (August 5, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."" (Luke 12:13-16)

MEDITATION

Stuff, stuff, stuff. Our lives are filled with stuff. If this stuff makes us who we are, then all we have become is someone "stuffed" with the things of this world. But you are in Christ, and these worldly things don't make you who you are. Christ makes us who we are. Thank God for that!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Megan (Lange) before you this day, asking that You would give her your mercy all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (August 6, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

READING

"And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.'" (Luke 12:16-21)

MEDITATION

We can never know when our last hour will come. All of the planning in the world cannot change the reality that the wages of sin is death. So what have you prepared for when that happens? No IRA or retirement plan can save you. Only the mercy of God in Jesus Christ can do that. That is what it means to be rich toward God.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon George (Cirelli). Bless him now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (August 7, 2022)

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

READING

"After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:1-6)

MEDITATION

Faith (trust) always begins with God. The LORD's nature or essence, is truth, faithfulness, steadfastness mercy and love. We, like Abram, can only trust God's promises because God has instilled us with the gift of faith. Sometimes this faith makes no sense. God's promises seem strange or out of reach. And yet, His promises are true, for that is His nature.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Al (Davis), O Lord, and give her hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (August 8, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

READING

"For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks." (Hebrews 11:1-4)

MEDITATION

Faith is a mystery. Try as we might, there are simply some things about faith that are unexplainable. Luther writes, "Faith does not insist on knowing the reason for God's actions, but it still regards God as the greatest goodness and mercy. Faith holds to that against and beyond all reason, sense, and experience, when everything appears to be wrath and injustice." (AE43:52)

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Heavenly Father, bless Del (Cirelli) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross her path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (August 9, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

READING

"By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith." (Hebrews 11:5-7)

MEDITATION

Hebrews gives us a glimpse of the saints of old, Enoch and Noah. Against all odds and in the face of ridicule of their friends and family, they believed in God's Word and promises. Did they completely understand God's plan? Did it make sense? Probably not, but they trusted God and His promises and God saved them and claimed them as His own. God knows our struggles and the questions which cloud our vision. He is our assurance. He is our hope. He holds us steadfast.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Carol (Kell) this day. Give her your grace and teach her to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (August 10, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

READING

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." (Hebrews 11:8-12)

MEDITATION

The language of faith is one of beauty and imagery. God uses His beautiful creation to demonstrate His grace and mercy. We, His saints are as innumerable as the stars in the heavens and the grains of sand along the beach. And no matter how infinite that number seems, God knows each one of us intimately and completely. In fact, He knew us before we were born.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with Tom (Dennis) this day, O Lord, and show him your great love throughout all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (August 11, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

READING

"These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city." (Hebrews 11:13-16)

MEDITATION

From all eternity, God hides and protects us in the shadow of His wings. He has engraved us on the palm of His hand. In baptism, God takes us from death to life. We are made His heirs then and there. But that is not the end of the story. He sets us on our pilgrimage to the heavenly Jerusalem, feeding us along the way with His Word and His very Body and Blood to sustain us and comfort us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Marianna (North) this day, as she goes about the callings you have given to her. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (August 12, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

READING

"And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!" (Luke 12:22-24)

MEDITATION

Like Jesus, the Psalmist reminds us of God's love and care in Psalm 139: 1-2, 4-5. "Oh, Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up. You discern my thoughts from afar. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me." God's love and care surrounds us each and everyday. God is our life. We need not fear.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Father, we lift up Jack (Poshepny) before you this day, asking that You would give him your mercy all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (August 13, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

READING

"And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you." (Luke 12:25-31)

MEDITATION

There are many things in this life that cause anxiety. Finances, health, family and all the goings on in the world—these things can fill our minds with worry. God know this. And yet, He calls us to seek that which brings peace. He calls us to seek Christ, for only Christ brings true peace and comfort.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Al (Arrington) Bless him now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (August 14, 2022)

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word." (Psalms 119:81)

READING

"Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"" (Jeremiah 23:16-17)

MEDITATION

There are many voices out there with false promises of health, wealth and well being. And we are tempted by these voices. We want to feel secure and in control. But these voices are full of false promises and at the end of the day, we are left with vain hopes. Our salvation, our true healing, comes from God. His promises are sure. His Words bring hope to a world broken by sin and false promises.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Rick (Fielitz), O Lord, and give him hope in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (August 15, 2022)

St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word." (Psalms 119:81)

READING

"I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds." (Jeremiah 23:21-22)

MEDITATION

We test false prophets by their words. If they are not in accordance with God's Holy Word, then they are not to be believed. God has revealed His Truth to us in His Word and in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. Week in and week out, we hear the true Words of God, spoken by our pastor. Each week we feast on the True Body and Blood of Christ, given to us to strengthen and nourish us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Kirtus (Creiglow) with faith in you and fervent love toward all those who cross his path this day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD

Almighty God, You chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of Your only Son. Grant that we, who are redeemed by His blood, may share with her in the glory of Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (August 16, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word." (Psalms 119:81)

READING

""Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:23-29)

MEDITATION

God's Word here is described as a fire and as a hammer. God's Word is powerful. It is not passive. This Word of Truth withstands false prophets and those who might twist His Words to serve their purposes. The hammer of God show us our sin. His fire purifies us.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Kristina (Lunsford) this day. Give her your grace and teach her to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (August 17, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word." (Psalms 119:81)

READING

"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones." (Hebrews 11:17-22)

MEDITATION

The faith of our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, was a gift of God's grace. God uses these sinner/saints to fulfill His promise of a Savior. God uses us broken sinner/saints to bring about His plan of salvation to those around us. He gives us His grace, His forgiveness and His hope as we go about the work He has entrusted to us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Samantha (Creiglow) this day, O Lord, and show her your great love throughout all the days of her life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (August 18, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word." (Psalms 119:81)

READING

"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them." (Hebrews 11:23-28)

MEDITATION

God's plan of salvation took many twists and turns. Moses, an Israelite, should have been killed as a baby, but God protected him, even placing him in the household of the Egyptian Pharaoh to be raised by his daughter. Now that is a paradox! God then calls Moses to lead His people out of the clutches of the Egyptians towards the promised land. The blood of the Passover lamb saves them, just as the blood of Christ saves us.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Jordan (Yates) this day, as he goes about the callings you have given to him. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (August 19, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word." (Psalms 119:81)

READING

"By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies." (Hebrews 11:29-31)

MEDITATION

God has a plan. His plan is that all should be saved. He uses unlikely people to fulfill His plan of redemption. People like Moses, who had a speech impediment. People like Rahab, who was a prostitute. People like you and me who often stumble and fall. But that is the great mystery of it all. God uses broken people—broken, but restored and healed in Christ—to proclaim His message of salvation to those in need of His mercy.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Jack (Cross) before you this day, asking that You would give him your mercy all the days of his life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (August 20, 2022)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word." (Psalms 119:81)

READING

""I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."" (Luke 12:49-53)

MEDITATION

Christ's words are like a blazing fire of truth and love. His fire comes to purify us—to help us along the way. His fire comes to show us our sin, and then to bring healing, wholeness and freedom. Christ comes to claim us—to separate us from what would divide us from Him.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Mavis (Thurber). Bless her now with the forgiveness of sins and a firm trust in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER



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