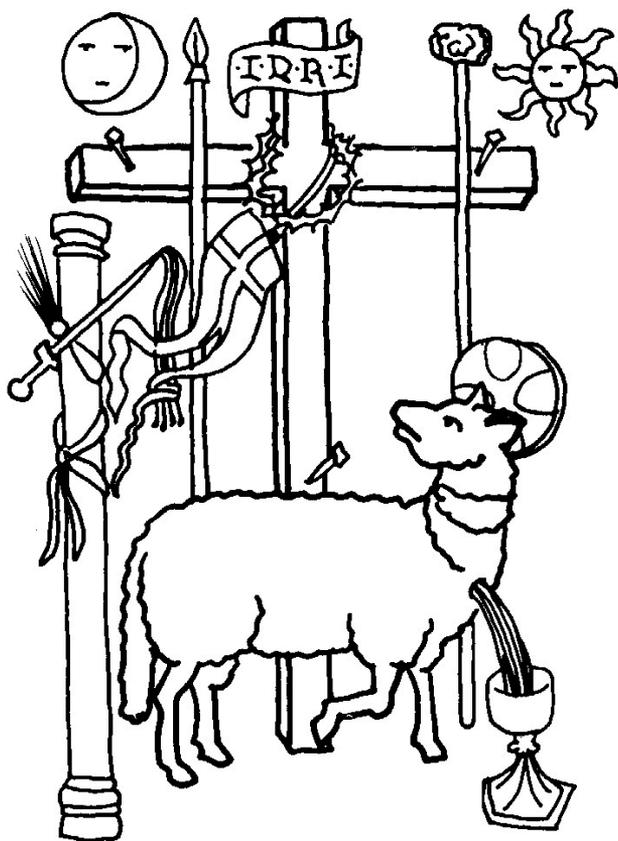


Holy Cross at Prayer



Pentecost 18C to the End of the Church Year
October 9 to November 26, 2022

Daily Prayer for our Pastoral Candidate Elect

Lord of the Church,

Be with our pastoral candidate elect William "Marsh" Shamburger III.

Look upon him and his wife Rachel as he completes his academic work at the Seminary. Guide the Synodical Placement Committee, the Council of Presidents and the Seminary Placement Officers as they carry out Your will in this unique Call to Holy Cross.

Grant patience to the members of Holy Cross as they await the time when, according to Your will, they praise and thank You for the one You place into the office of senior pastor. These things we petition you Father, through your Son by the Holy Spirit as we await that day. Amen

SUNDAY (October 9, 2022)

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”” (Luke 17:19)

READING

“In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband” (Ruth 1:1-5)

MEDITATION

Famine of all kinds— unemployment, cancer, depression, death—often make us sojourn in what seems like foreign and strange lands. The journey doesn't make sense. Yet, God is with us in each twist and turn of life. His hand is always upon us, even if we don't understand it. God's ways are not our ways, but His ways are sure and true.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Let your grace be upon Stephen (Zavala) 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 show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; 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 (October 10, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."" (Luke 17:19)

READING

"Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her." (Ruth 1:6-14)

MEDITATION

The famine in Judah is over, but Naomi has experienced her own famine in the deaths of her husband, and her two sons. Naomi, a widow with no sons to care for her, plans to journey "home" in hopes of finding someone to care for her among her own people.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Bill (Davis) 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 show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; 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 (October 11, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."" (Luke 17:19)

READING

"And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem." (Ruth 1:15-19)

MEDITATION

Ruth speaks beautiful words of faith. Her words go beyond the love for Naomi. Ruth's words reflect her faith in the One True God, shown to her by her deceased husband and by Naomi, her mother-in-law. Ruth leaves all that is knowable to venture out to foreign lands in the faith that the God of Israel will provide for needs of body and soul.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Jesus Christ, be with Wyatt (Yates) this week. Give him your grace and help him to learn more of your mercy with each passing day. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, You show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; 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 (October 12, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."" (Luke 17:19)

READING

"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything." (2 Timothy 2:1-7)

MEDITATION

St. Paul writes to Timothy, his beloved son in the faith, as a spiritual father to another pastor. Paul encourages Timothy to be strengthened by what is true—Christ Jesus. The Pastoral Office is one beset by many trials and temptations, and Paul uses the analogies of a good soldier, an athlete and a farmer to help Timothy understand the ongoing preparation needed for this holy office. Let us pray for our pastor each and every day, that he might be protected and strengthened.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with Gerry (Fallon) 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 God, You show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; 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 (October 13, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."" (Luke 17:19)

READING

"Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself." (2Timothy 2:8-13)

MEDITATION

In prison and bound in chains, Paul continues to remind Timothy of their mutual identity in Christ. Paul writes of Christ's faithfulness to death on the cross and His continual faithfulness towards us. Christ and His Word never changes. His faithfulness is constant. It is part of who He is. Christ, the Word Incarnate, is life, truth and freedom, and in Him we also have life, truth and freedom.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Betty (Ruecker) 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 show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; 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 (October 14, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."" (Luke 17:19)

READING

"On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed." (Luke 17:11-15)

MEDITATION

Lepers: Outcasts. Unclean. Shamed. Living on the Fringe.

Jesus: Inclusion. Holiness. Redemption. Restoration. Mercy.

Jesus comes for those considered less-than, ignorable, not able to contribute to society. He comes for those living on the margins, broken down by physical, emotional or spiritual limitations. Jesus, Mercy Incarnate, brings hope and healing to hurting bodies and souls by His love. That is who Jesus is.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Father, we lift up Phyllis (Reichley) 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 show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; 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 (October 15, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."" (Luke 17:19)

READING

"Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."" (Luke 17:15-19)

MEDITATION

Humility means living in the Truth. All ten lepers were healed and restored. Their days of living on the fringes were over. One of the ten sees the Truth in this healing and returns to Jesus in faith and gratitude. While all ten were healed, one was given healing of body and soul— forgiveness, peace and true restoration to his community and to the community of Christ. The generosity of Christ overflows to all who believe.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Carol (Berkenbile). 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 show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; 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 (October 16, 2022)

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

READING

“The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.” (Genesis 32:22-25)

MEDITATION

Jacob is returning to his homeland, and even though many years have passed since he left, Jacob is concerned about how his brother Esau will receive him. Before he left, Jacob, the second born, was given by his father, the inheritance and blessing that was rightfully due Esau as the firstborn. Now Jacob is fearful about this reunion with Esau. And then he has this very strange night of wrestling with a man—who turns out to be God!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Bill (Ross), 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, almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and govern our hearts in all things that we may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name; 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 (October 17, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

READING

"Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."" (Genesis 32:26-30)

MEDITATION

Not only has Jacob wrestled with God (as if that wasn't strange enough!), but he has seen God face-to-face. Normally, this would mean instant death, for unholiness cannot stand face-to-face with Holiness and live. Yet, God not only lets Jacob live, He blesses him and gives him a new name, Israel. Again, God's ways are not our ways.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Georgi (Price) 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, almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and govern our hearts in all things that we may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name; 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 (October 18, 2022)

St. Luke, Evangelist

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

READING

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

MEDITATION

Tradition really means to hand over or to hand down. The early Church understood that to “hand down the sacred writings” was to hand over Christ Himself. They knew that those sacred writings were the Word Incarnate --living, breathing and true. We also receive these same sacred writings--Christ Himself --through the voice of our pastor as he faithfully preaches the Word and administers the sacraments.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST

Almighty God, our Father, Your blessed Son called Luke the physician to be an evangelist and physician of the soul. Grant that the healing medicine of the Gospel and the Sacraments may put to flight the diseases of our souls that with willing hearts we may ever love and serve You; 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 (October 19, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

READING

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

MEDITATION

Paul is writing to Timothy, pastor to pastor. He exhorts Timothy to preach what has been handed down to him in holy scripture. There is a great temptation within the Church to be swayed by the latest gimmick and to let the current culture dictate the Church. But God's Word stands the test of time. Christ defines the culture, not the other way around.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Gary (Myer) 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, almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and govern our hearts in all things that we may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name; 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 (October 20, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

READING

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." (Psalm 121)

MEDITATION

On this earthy pilgrimage, we often lose our way. The path may be strewn with boulders of sickness, loneliness, grief, poverty and death. The evil one would like to keep us in despair and isolation. But we have a God of help and mercy. His footing is sure. He is attentive to our needs and cares for us. We need not fear.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Gary (Bechthold) 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, almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and govern our hearts in all things that we may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name; 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 (October 21, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

READING

"And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'"" (Luke 18:1-6)

MEDITATION

Pray and do not lose heart. Jesus knows disappointments, discouragements and even suffering will come our way, thus He urges us to pray. In prayer, we look to the Source of comfort and relief. God loves us unconditionally. He is not like the judge who grants the widow her request so he can get rid of her! No, God invites us to pray and promises to hear our prayers, always.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Bill (Davis) 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, almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and govern our hearts in all things that we may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name; 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 (October 22, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

READING

"And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:5-8)

MEDITATION

God's is a God of mercy and compassion. He invites us to enter into prayer with confidence, knowing that He is a God who is long-suffering and full of mercy towards us broken sinners. He encourages us to pray and not lose heart. He is with us for the long journey, no matter what obstacles seem to be in the way. His nature does not change.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Pam (Williams). 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, almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and govern our hearts in all things that we may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name; 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 (October 23, 2022)

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus and Martyr

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen (Timothy 4:18)

READING

"Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand." (Genesis 4:8-11)

MEDITATION

Just like when Adam and Eve had sinned and eaten the forbidden fruit, and God asked them, "Where are you?", here, God asks Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" It's not as if God doesn't know the answer, but sin causes us to be secretive, to hide. We cannot hide from God. He knows everything. Adam, Eve and Cain suffered the consequences of their sins, yet God was merciful towards them. He is just as merciful toward us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Sue (Currey), 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 DAY FOR THE FEAST OF ST. JAMES, BROTHER OF JESUS AND MARTYR

Heavenly Father, shepherd of Your people, You raised up James the Just, brother of our Lord, to lead and guide Your Church. Grant that we may follow his example of prayer and reconciliation and be strengthened by the witness of his death; 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 (October 24, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (2 Timothy 4:18)

READING

Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning. Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray. O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch. For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. (Psalm 5:1-4)

MEDITATION

God hears our prayers. Even when we don't know what to pray, God hears our groaning and our cries. Jesus prays with us and for us to the Father. We are never alone. We need not fear. God is always with us and is here to help us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Nikki (Fielitz) 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 everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour down on us the abundance of Your mercy; forgive us those things of which our conscience is afraid; and give us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except by the merits and mediation of 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 (October 25, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (2 Timothy 4:18)

READING

"But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield." (Psalm 5:11-12)

MEDITATION

God is our refuge and strength. He is our protection from the storms of life that rage around us and threaten to destroy us. God has given us His very Name that we might call on Him in times of trouble and rejoice in times of joy. Come to Him in trust and confidence.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Jesus Christ, be with Reney (Houseworth) this week. 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 everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour down on us the abundance of Your mercy; forgive us those things of which our conscience is afraid; and give us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except by the merits and mediation of 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 (October 26, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (2 Timothy 4:18)

READING

"He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'" (Luke 18:9-12)

MEDITATION

Note the prayer language of the Pharisee: he uses lots of "I" words. The focus is not on God, but on himself. He puffs himself up, stating his case of superiority and self-righteousness. He has set himself above others, thinking he is more deserving of God's love and favor. But he's got it all wrong. God is not impressed with our righteous efforts. No, we are only made righteous through His Son, Jesus Christ.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Eric (Jarvinen) 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 everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour down on us the abundance of Your mercy; forgive us those things of which our conscience is afraid; and give us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except by the merits and mediation of 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 (October 27, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (2 Timothy 4:18)

READING

"But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.'" (Luke 18:13-14)

MEDITATION

A tax collector was certainly not held in high esteem for they were known for their deception and cheating. Yet, compared to the self-righteous posture of the Pharisee, this tax collector stands in humility. He acknowledges he is a sinner in need of God's mercy. He understands his place before God. He has nothing, but God has everything.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Chris (Williams) 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)

Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour down on us the abundance of Your mercy; forgive us those things of which our conscience is afraid; and give us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except by the merits and mediation of 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 (October 28, 2022)

St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (2 Timothy 4:18)

READING

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

MEDITATION

St. Paul knows his death is coming. He can die with confidence, knowing that God has given him faith and the strength to remain faithful. We need not fear the Righteous Judge, for when He looks at us, He sees the righteousness given to us through Jesus. We can face our death and the final day without fear.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Curtis (Oschner) 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. SIMON AND ST. JUDE, APOSTLES

Almighty God, You chose Your servants Simon and Jude to be numbered among the glorious company of the apostles. As they were faithful and zealous in their mission, so may we with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (October 29, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (2 Timothy 4:18)

READING

"At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (2 Timothy 4:16-18)

MEDITATION

Even if it seems that the world and everyone is against us, God will never desert us. The cross of Christ is firmly planted. His blood paints the cross with mercy and forgiveness which is poured out for us, even as we partake in His Body and Blood at the Lord's Table. He rescues us from all evil. He protects us with His very Life.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Brianna (Williams). 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 and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour down on us the abundance of Your mercy; forgive us those things of which our conscience is afraid; and give us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except by the merits and mediation of 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 (October 30, 2022)

Reformation Sunday

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

READING

"Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."" (Revelation 14:6-7)

MEDITATION

The Gospel is eternal. The Gospel is Christ, God incarnate who came to save us from our sins. St John writes, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." (John 1:1). Jesus is the Alpha (the beginning) and the Omega (the end). Jesus the Creator came to restore His creation through His life, death and resurrection. On the last day, the eternal Gospel will restore all believers to Himself.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Sarah (Creiglow), 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 FOR REFORMATION DAY

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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 (October 31, 2022)

Reformation Day

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

READING

"Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.'" (Revelation 14:6-7)

MEDITATION

The good news of the Gospel is eternal. There is only one Gospel and it is Christ Himself. He is our Life and our Light. He is Eternal Life. On that final day of judgement, the entire world will know of Him and His salvation and of His judgement. As believers we will worship Him in trust and love.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Sofia (Erickson) 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 gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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 (November 1, 2022)**All Saints' Day**

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

Reading

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns." (Psalms 46:1-5)

MEDITATION

God is our refuge. He is our shelter. He is our strength and our help. We need not rely on ourselves, for surely that will fail, but God's refuge, strength and help never fail. No matter how dire things seem; no matter the trials and sufferings we face, God is in the midst of His people. God is here. Always and Forever. Martin Luther, so comforted by the words of this Psalm, was moved to write the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress".

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (November 2, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

READING

"Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe." (Romans 3:19-22)

MEDITATION

The law shows us our sin and brokenness. It mirrors to us all that is wrong. If that were the end of the story, oh, what a bleak conclusion it would be. On our own we are helpless beggars, unable to pull ourselves up from the muck and mire of our own sinful self. But that is not the end of the story. The end of the story is our rescue from sin by the faithful One. Christ's righteousness rescues us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Tyler (Jackson) 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 gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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 (November 3, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

READING

" For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law." (Romans 3:22-28)

MEDITATION

Each week we confess together that we are all poor miserable sinners. We have sinned against God in thought, word and deed. God's forgiveness (absolution) is pure gift. It is not something we work for or even merit. We receive it as pure grace, not due to any worthiness in us, but simply because God loves us and lavishes us with His Gift, Jesus. We have forgiveness, life and salvation through Jesus Christ.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Finn (Cross) 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)

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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 (November 4, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

READING

"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" (John 8:31-33)

MEDITATION

Jesus' gift of grace is just what it is—a gift. There is no way to earn it. It is freely given. For the Jews, this way of thinking was beyond the pale, almost blasphemous. They had been brought up to believe that the way to freedom was by studying and trying to keeping the Torah, (the Law) so in their minds, they were already free. And now here is Jesus saying that the only way to true freedom is through Him. No wonder so many Jews rejected Jesus.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Russ (Davis) 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 gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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 (November 5, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

READING

"Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:34-36)

MEDITATION

God makes us His own in Baptism and gives us the gift of faith. By the water and the Word, God places His name on us and we are His children, His heirs. The freedom of the Gospel releases us from the bondage of sin and death. We are no longer slaves. Christ is the only way to true freedom.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Wayne (Reichley). 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 gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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 (November 6, 2022)

All Saints' Sunday

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."" (Revelation 7:17)

READING

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."" (Revelation 7:9-12)

MEDITATION

What a beautiful picture this is! As we gather around the altar for Holy Communion we get a glimpse of this heaven on earth, together with all the saints, the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven. Amen!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Dorothy (Lemons), O Lord, and let 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 everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (November 7, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."" (Revelation 7:17)

READING

"Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."" (Revelation 7:13-17)

MEDITATION

Creation is restored, healed and all is made new in Christ—this is heaven. The Lamb is also the shepherd who gives salvation and life eternal. This picture is beyond our comprehension, but one we cling to as God's promise for us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Barbara (Payne) 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 everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (November 8, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."" (Revelation 7:17)

READING

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure." (1 John 3:1-3)

MEDITATION

God lavishes His love on us. No strings attached. We are His children, washed clean in the waters of Holy Baptism. We are nourished at His Table as we feast on His very Body and Blood—the medicine of immortality for body and soul. He cares for us with a love that knows no bounds. That is Who God is—God is Love.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (November 9, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (Revelation 7:17)

READING

“Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:1-3)

MEDITATION

What does it mean to be poor in spirit? Is this an achievement? A goal? How does one become poor in spirit? And why would anyone want have a spirit of poverty? To be poor in spirit is to know who we are. We are beggars before Christ, coming with empty sacks, waiting to be filled by His grace and mercy. This poverty is really a blessed state—an identity, really. It is who we are in Christ—filled with His gifts, so that we might give generously to those in our paths each day.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Bruce (Grinager) 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 everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

THURSDAY (November 10, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."" (Revelation 7:17)

READING

""Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:4-5)

MEDITATION

Jesus continues with the beatitudes with more descriptions of life in Him. A life of sorrow and meekness. How strange this seems until we begin to understand that these blessings He speaks of, describe Christ Himself. Christ was poor. He mourned and was sorrowful. He was meek. As believers, our identity is Christ. We enter into this reality in the blessed waters of Holy Baptism, and are continually fed and nourished at the Lord's Table. Poverty, sorrow, meekness are certainly not seen as virtues in this world, but understood in the light of Christ, they are blessings indeed.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Charles (Short) 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)

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (November 11, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."" (Revelation 7:17)

READING

""Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Matthew 5:6-8)

MEDITATION

Christ is our Righteousness. He did what we could not do. Through Him, we are made right with God the Father. Christ is mercy in the flesh. It is through Christ that we know mercy. Christ is pure in heart. He purifies us with His blood. As His baptized children, we live a life of mercy and purity of heart as He lives in us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Lance (Wallick) 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 everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (November 12, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."" (Revelation 7:17)

READING

""Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:8-12)

MEDITATION

Jesus speaks to His disciples about the life they will encounter in His name, a life of persecution and suffering for the Gospel. This does not sound like a good recruitment technique! And yet, the reward is great—to be with Christ forever where there will be no more suffering, no more sorrow, no more hunger, no more persecution. On our own, we could not withstand the trials of this world, but in Christ, we are strengthened for this journey.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Kathy (Millikan). 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 and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (November 13, 2022)

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."" (Luke 21:28)

READING

""For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts." (Malachi 4:1-3)

MEDITATION

God's words of judgement are harsh and even scary: burning and blazing! But, hey, didn't God reveal Himself to Moses in a burning bush? Didn't God lead the children of Israel with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night? For believers, God comes as the Sun of Righteousness, bringing healing in His wings. He comes bringing shelter and security.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Vicki (Merkh), 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, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (November 14, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."" (Luke 21:28)

READING

""Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."" (Malachi 4:4-6)

MEDITATION

These words written in Malachi, are the last words of the Old Testament, announcing that judgement day is coming. As we approach the last days of the Church year, we hear strong and cutting words of judgement and destruction. But, as St. Luke reminds us, "straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near".

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Barbara (Meyer) 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, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (November 15, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."" (Luke 21:28)

READING

"Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you." (2 Thessalonians 3:6-8)

MEDITATION

Christ is our example. He is the one we are to imitate. His time on this earth was for our benefit. Not only does he give us the gifts of forgiveness of sins, life eternal and rescue from our enemies, but He also shows us how to live. The law of Christ is love. We live out our life in Christ by serving and loving our neighbor.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Jesus Christ, be with Jan (Matranga) this week. 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, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (November 16, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."" (Luke 21:28)

READING

"It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good." (2 Thessalonians 3:9-13)

MEDITATION

St. Paul imitates Christ and thus is a source of encouragement and even admonition. It is ultimately Christ who calls us to be imitators of Himself and His mercy—to live out our identity as one marked by Him.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Laurie (Luckmeyer) 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, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (November 17, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."" (Luke 21:28)

READING

"And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."" (Luke 21:5-9)

MEDITATION

Jesus prophesies about the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem as a foreshadowing of the final day of judgement. He is preparing His followers to know who they are: "Don't be led astray. Be solid in the faith. Be steadfast in what you have been taught, so that you won't be terrified." Wise and comforting words for Jesus' disciples and for us as well.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Deborah (Grinder) 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, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (November 18, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."" (Luke 21:28)

READING

"Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives." (Luke 21:10-19)

MEDITATION

The disciples will undergo persecution and suffering for their faith. This is not exactly a comforting picture Jesus paints. But, Jesus promises to be with them. He will protect them and provide for them unto life eternal.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Cindy (Currey) 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, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (November 19, 2022)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."" (Luke 21:28)

READING

""And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."" (Luke 21:25-28)

MEDITATION

Speculation about the end of the world has given rise to many books, movies and commentaries, which serve to create visions of fear and destruction. But, for the believer, the end of the world means seeing Jesus in His power and glory. We are to stand straight and confident in our redemption which is Jesus Himself.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Pat (Hull). 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, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (November 20, 2022)

Last Sunday of the Church Year

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

""Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.'"" (Malachi 3:13-15)

MEDITATION

God's grace and mercy make no sense. Out of His great love for us, He plucked us out of the great darkness and gave us life in and through His Son, Jesus. Jesus paid the price for us. His life as a ransom, gives us a life marked by forgiveness of sins.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Stacey (Wallace), 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

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (November 21, 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

"Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him." (Malachi 3:16-18)

MEDITATION

To fear God and esteem His Name is to believe that He is who He says He is. He is the Holy One who delivers us from sin and death. He is the giver of life and all good things. He is the One who writes our names in the book of remembrance forever and ever.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Nikki (Wallace) 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)

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (November 22, 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

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross." (Colossians 1:15-20)

MEDITATION

Jesus is both Creator and Redeemer. From before the beginning of time, Jesus was. He has dominion over all, and yet, He humbled Himself to become one of us. He, who had power and rule, became a vulnerable baby so that He might be like us in every way and bring us peace through His faithful death on the cross.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Jesus Christ, be with Heather (Kirkpatrick) this week. 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, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (November 23, 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 there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"" (Luke 23:27-31)

MEDITATION

Jesus is on His way to His crucifixion. In response to those weeping around Him, He speaks of the coming persecution for those who follow Him, and for the last days. Even in His great distress, He still loves and cares for those who follow Him.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Abby (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)

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (November 24, 2022)

Day of Thanksgiving

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

"Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments." (Luke 23:32-34)

MEDITATION

Jesus prayed. Throughout His earthly life and ministry, Jesus prayed to His Father. This was the pattern Jesus set for Himself and for us. Even while hanging on the cross in agony, Jesus prays to the Father for those who have persecuted, tortured and nailed Him to the cross. He asks for forgiveness for them—for their sake. This is great news for us. When we pray, Jesus prays with us and for us to the Father, transforming our words into those worthy of our Father's ears.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

PRAYER FOR THE DAY OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Your mercies are new every morning and You graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your goodness, give thanks for Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience all our days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (November 25, 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 the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."" (Luke 23:35-38)

MEDITATION

Not only was Jesus subjected to the most humiliating torture of crucifixion, but he was mocked and ridiculed as well. But for the King of the Jews, the cross, an instrument of torture, was His throne. It was the place where the Creator came to restore His creation and bring life and forgiveness for all who would believe.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Autumn (Williams) 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, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (November 26, 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

"One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."" (Luke 23:39-43)

MEDITATION

The passion (suffering) of Christ has a two fold effect. There are two criminals being crucified with Jesus. One jeers at and mocks Jesus. The other has the veil lifted and sees Jesus for who He is—The Christ, the King of the Jews. His repentance brings absolution and eternal life. And so it is today, Jesus is either seen as one to mock (or ignore), or as The Christ who brings eternal life.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Kara (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)

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER



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