

Holy Cross at Prayer



7th Week of Easter to the 5th Week of Pentecost
Series A

May 21 to July 8, 2023

SUNDAY (May 21, 2023)

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one." (John 17:11)

READING

"Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." (Acts 1:12-14)

MEDITATION

It's right after Jesus ascended into heaven. They have returned to Jerusalem. What next? How would Christ's Church move forward in His name? They moved forward by prayer. They were of one accord because they heard His Word together, and together they prayed. The men and the women, greatest to the least, the mother of Jesus to the apostles. They were all together in prayer. May our unity ever be found by uniting around the word and promises of Christ for us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Sofia (Erickson), O Lord, and teach her to 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 King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (May 22, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one." (John 17:11)

READING

"In those days Peter stood up...and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."...So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles." (Acts 1:15-26)

MEDITATION

Judas had abandoned the faith, and so he needed to be replaced. Two men fit the qualifications: Joseph and Matthias. They had both been with them from the beginning of Jesus' ministry, and they had both been eyewitnesses of His resurrection. So they cast lots to choose, which would be like tossing a coin for us. The lot fell to Matthias to become the next apostle. And that's the last we ever hear about him. His service was important, but what that service was we don't need to know. Sometimes for each of us there is service that we do for others that is important, but that no one will ever know about. But that's okay. Remember Matthias, and rejoice that God has given you the opportunity to serve Him, even if no one else ever sees it.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Heavenly Father, bless Sam (Hull) 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 King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (May 23, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one." (John 17:11)

READING

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name." (1 Peter 4:12-16)

MEDITATION

Suffering for our sin in this life may come from the consequences of our wrongdoing. That's a part of our lives together as sinners in need of the Gospel. But what Peter is talking about here is suffering for being a Christian. Literally we "share Christ's sufferings". That's not the usual thing we think about sharing! But by sharing in His sufferings, we will also share in His glory that will be revealed at the Last Day. So don't be afraid when the trials come. It is a sign that you are Christ's child, and that you will live with Him forever.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Sue (Currey) 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 King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (May 24, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one." (John 17:11)

READING

"For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good." (1 Peter 4:17-19)

MEDITATION

Jesus said on the cross, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." It was true for Him, but it is also true for us. God is good and right and faithful. Whether we live or die is in His hands, and He is the one who will see us through to the end, no matter what may come in this life.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with Chris (Williams) 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 King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (May 25, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one." (John 17:11)

READING

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 5:6-11)

MEDITATION

The devil prowls about, but he is a lion with no teeth. The sting of death is sin, but Christ has overcome both sin and death for you. That is why we can cast our anxieties on Him. He will see us through the trials, whatever may come. The devil may make a lot of noise, but in the end he was defeated by the true lion, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Jesus Christ the Righteous one. Thanks be to God!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Reney (Houseworth) 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 King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (May 26, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one." (John 17:11)

READING

"When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed." (John 17:1-5)

MEDITATION

Jesus here is speaking about His coming death on the cross. The glory of God is in showing mercy, by forgiving our sins and giving us eternal life. That is why we sing, "In the cross of Christ I glory..." Eternal life, then, is knowing God and Jesus Christ. We know Him best as He has revealed Himself to us on the cross and in His death. Thanks be to God!

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

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

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (May 27, 2023)

Pentecost Eve

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one." (John 17:11)

READING

"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one." (John 17:6-11)

MEDITATION

"I have given them the words," Jesus says. The words (*the Word*) are His, always. It is His Word that goes forth throughout the world for our salvation. And it is that Word alone which creates unity. We are one in Christ because His Word creates faith. This is an incredible gift, because it means our unity is not based on numbers, or on how we look or dress or act. It is based on the Word alone. That is where our unity lies. If we look for unity as Christians anywhere else, it will always end in folly.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST EVE

Almighty and ever-living God, You fulfilled Your promise by sending the gift of the Holy Spirit to unite disciples of all nations in the cross and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. By the preaching of the Gospel spread this gift to the ends of the earth; 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

SUNDAY (May 28, 2023)

Pentecost

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." (John 7:37)

READING

"So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it." (Numbers 11:24-25)

MEDITATION

God gives Moses a break, in only the way that God can do such things. The people are full of complaints and grumblings and Moses needs help. He simply cannot bear this burden alone anymore. (It seems that the Israelites, like us at times, are really good at grumbling and complaining). God directs Moses to gather seventy men and then God anoints them with the Spirit for the specific work He has in store for them. It is no different today, God hears our pleas for mercy and responds in the way that is best for us.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Carol (Kell), O Lord, and teach her to 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 God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; 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 (May 29, 2023)

Pentecost Monday

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." (John 7:37)

READING

"Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them." But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp." (Numbers 11:26-30)

MEDITATION

So, out of the seventy men appointed to help Moses, only sixty-eight were present in the tent when God anointed them with the Spirit. The other two men were also anointed, but outside the tent, and rather than prophesying in the tent with the others, they were out in the camp prophesying. Oh, what a ruckus this caused for Joshua. Moses' words to Joshua are fulfilled in Act 2 with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST MONDAY

O God, who gave Your Holy Spirit to the apostles, grant us that same Spirit that we may live in faith and abide in 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 (May 30, 2023)

Pentecost Tuesday

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." (John 7:37)

READING

"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?... –we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."" (Acts 2:1-13)

MEDITATION

The Holy Spirit pours out on God's people to establish His Church on earth. Moses foretold of this outpouring, as did Christ, and now the day is here where the Spirit descends to bring unity to all nations in the name of the crucified and risen Lord.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST TUESDAY

Almighty and ever-living God, You fulfilled Your promise by sending the gift of the Holy Spirit to unite disciples of all nations in the cross and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. By the preaching of the Gospel spread this gift to the ends of the earth; 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

WEDNESDAY (May 31, 2023)

The Visitation

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." (John 7:37)

READING

"But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'" (Acts 2:14-21)

MEDITATION

Christ is the fulfillment of all Scriptures. He is the fulfillment of all prophecies and promises. He is our salvation. The Holy Spirit comes to testify to this reality and establishes the Church on earth.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THE VISITATION

Almighty God, You chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of Your Son and made known through her Your gracious regard for the poor and lowly and despised. Grant that we may receive Your Word in humility and faith, and so be made one with 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 (June 1, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." (John 7:37)

READING

"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:37-39)

MEDITATION

Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit who is to be given. The same Spirit who hovers over the face of the waters in creation. The same Spirit who descends like a dove upon Jesus in the baptismal waters of the Jordan River. This same Spirit will be given after Jesus is crowned with glory as he hangs bloodied, sweat-drenched on the cross with water and blood running from His pierced side. This same Spirit now descends upon us in the waters of Holy Baptism, giving us Jesus: forgiveness of sins, eternal life and rescue from our enemies. This same Spirit helps us see the Father through Jesus.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Kara (Lunsford) 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 God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; 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 (June 2, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." (John 7:37)

READING

"To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!" (Psalms 25:1-7)

MEDITATION

The Psalmist does a strange thing here. He calls upon God to remember who He is. He calls upon the God of mercy, of steadfast love, of forgiveness and truth, knowing that God will do what He promises to do. He will save us from our sins and deliver us from evil.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Wayne (Reichley) 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 God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; 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 (June 3, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." (John 7:37)

READING

"Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant. My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net." (Psalms 25:8-15)

MEDITATION

The ways of the LORD are true and trustworthy, leading to life and peace. The way we often choose is anything but trustworthy, often leading to chaos. God's way is Truth, Mercy and Love. God's way is His nature. This reality never changes. This is our security. So let us look with the eyes of faith to the LORD.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Russ (Davis). 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 God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; 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 (June 4, 2023)

Holy Trinity

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."" (Matthew 28:20b)

READING

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day." (Genesis 1:1-8)

MEDITATION

From the beginning to the end, Jesus Christ is and had always been. St. John begins, "In the beginning was the Word..." And St. Matthew ends, "... behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." There never was, and never will be a time when Jesus Christ did not, nor does not, exist. The eternal Word.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Nikki (Wallace), O Lord, and teach her to 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 have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (June 5, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."" (Matthew 28:20b)

READING

"And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day." (Genesis 1:9-13)

MEDITATION

"And God said,"

"And it was so."

"And God saw that it was good."

These words echo through the creation narrative, showing us the power of God's Word. Some call this *performative speech*, meaning, God's Word does what it says. When God speaks, it happens. And so it is true for us today. When God speaks His words of forgiveness through the voice of our pastor, forgiveness happens. And it is so, and it is good.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Cindy (Currey) 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 have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (June 6, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."" (Matthew 28:20b)

READING

"And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day." (Genesis 1:14-23)

MEDITATION

God the Creator sets forth His creation in a beautiful, orderly pattern. Day and night, light and dark, seasons of rhythms are set by God to guide us in ordinary time and in sacred time. He continues to bring order and rhythm to our lives, each and everyday.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Matthew (Yee) 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 have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (June 7, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."" (Matthew 28:20b)

READING

"And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:24-27)

MEDITATION

God creates man and woman in His own image. Wait, did the Genesis really say that? God created us in His own image? That is really remarkable. We are created, not engineered. Created and loved beyond all comprehension. Loved and known before the foundations of the world were laid. Loved, because we were created and recreated in the image of Love itself, the Eternal Word, Jesus Christ.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Heather (Kirkpatrick) 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 and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (June 8, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."" (Matthew 28:20b)

READING

"But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:... "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know– this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, ""I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."" (Acts 2:14a, 22-28)

MEDITATION

Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is our security and our hope. Though death was necessary – it was Christ's seat of glory – death does not hold him. God loosened the death grip on Christ, raising him from the dead in order that we too might have new life, free from all of death's entanglements.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Kelli (Bryant) 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 everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

FRIDAY (June 9, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."" (Matthew 28:20b)

READING

""Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ""The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."" Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."" (Acts 2:29-36)

MEDITATION

Jesus promised His disciples the outpouring of the Holy Spirit after His glorification which was His death on the cross. True to His promise, the Holy Spirit is poured out on those believers who will form the early Christian Church. Likewise, the Holy Spirit is poured out on us in the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Here we are given the gift of faith and the gifts of mercy which is Christ Himself.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Daniel (Menche) 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 have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SATURDAY (June 10, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."" (Matthew 28:20b)

READING

"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."" (Matthew 28:16-20)

MEDITATION

Jesus, the creator, comes to redeem His creation. Baptism is the Church's outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is where the One who loves us and created us marks us as His own. As the Triune Name is traced upon our foreheads and chest, we bear the name of Christ. In fact, we now bear, in our bodies, Christ's Body, and thus become incorporated into the Body of Christ, His Church.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Howard (Menche). 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 everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (June 11, 2023)

St. Barnabas, Apostle

Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.'" (Matthew 9:12)

READING

"I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me.' Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.'" (Hosea 6:1-2)

MEDITATION

Our sin gives us a guilty conscience. The law shows us our sin and in our distress we can call on the Lord because He has first called us. Repentance is God's work, not our work. He gifts us with repentance that leads us to renounce sin, always asking for God's mercy. It is God's mercy and forgiveness which turn us from sin and towards Him.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Vicki (Merkh), O Lord, and teach her to 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 most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; 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

MONDAY (June 12, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.'" (Matthew 9:12)

READING

"You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word.

Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. You are good and do good; teach me your statutes." (Psalm 119:65-68)

MEDITATION

The law is God's good gift to us. In His Holy Law, God teaches us His good and loving will for us, and also for the whole world. He gives us knowledge and good judgement. However, the law does not save us, nor does our good works, for no matter how hard we try, we cannot keep the law. Thanks be to God, we have the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer who kept the law perfectly for us, so that we might have forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation.

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 most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; 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

TUESDAY (June 13, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.'" (Matthew 9:12)

READING

"For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression." (Romans 4:13-15)

MEDITATION

Abraham, a sinner like you and me, could not keep God's Law any better than we can. But through the promised Messiah, Christ, God fulfills the promise He gave to Abraham. Through our Baptism, we become heirs of the promise and therefore are righteous before God. It's all gift.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Lance (Wallick) 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 most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; 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

WEDNESDAY (June 13, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.'" (Matthew 9:12)

READING

"That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be."
(Romans 4:16-18)

MEDITATION

God's promises are sure. Through the Holy Spirit, He gives us the gift of faith. Our salvation does not depend on us and what we do—it is a gift from God, given to us out of love and mercy. God's promise to Abraham that "he should become the father of many nations" was sure because God promised it, not because Abraham was perfect. We live in that promise today! We are a part of those "many nations".

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Barbara (Meyer) 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 and most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; 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

THURSDAY (June 15, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.'" (Matthew 9:12)

READING

"He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." (Romans 4:19-25)

MEDITATION

Abraham had every reason to doubt God's promise. He was old and his wife was barren. Yet, he believed. He trusted. We too will have trials which may tempt us to doubt God's Word and His promises. But, no matter what comes our way, God is faithful and His promises are unchangeable. He is the giver of faith and all good gifts.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Bill (Ross) 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 most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; 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

FRIDAY (June 16, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.'" (Matthew 9:12)

READING

"As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'" (Matthew 9:-11)

MEDITATION

Jesus calls the least of the least to be one of His disciples; Matthew, a tax collector, was one of the most despised of men. Tax collectors were dishonest and shunned by most Jews. And worse yet, Jesus sits and eats with other "sinners" as well. In the eyes of the Pharisees, Jesus taints Himself and actually becomes one with sinners. Jesus, the Merciful One comes to save all us sinners.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Deb (Grinder) 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 and most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; 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 (June 17, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.'" (Matthew 9:12)

READING

"But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.'" (Matthew 9:12-13)

MEDITATION

We are all sinners in need of God's mercy. The virus of sin infected us and all of creation with the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. Thankfully, we have the remedy to sin—Jesus the great physician of body and soul. Jesus freely dispenses His mercy and healing to his people.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Jan (Matranga) 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 most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; 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

SUNDAY (June 18, 2023)

Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction.” (Matthew 9:35)

READING

“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with thanksgiving.” (Psalm 100:1-2)

MEDITATION

Thanksgiving, praise and serving are responses to the good and gracious gifts God has bestowed upon us. Even His creation makes a joyful noise to the Lord. God is the giver and we simply receive what He gives us. By the Holy Spirit, He even gives us the ability to respond in joyful thanksgiving and praise. Jesus is the ultimate Giver and He, Himself is the gift, bringing us forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Stacey (Wallace), O Lord, and teach him to 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, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

MONDAY (June 19, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction." (Matthew 9:35)

READING

"Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and he sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!" (Psalm 100:3-4)

MEDITATION

God is King and Lord. He is our creator and our protector. He knows us intimately and loves us deeply, and in fact, He calls us by name. Even before we were born, He knew us. God has made each one of us in His image. He tenderly cares for us, as a shepherd cares for his sheep. For this, we give Him thanks and praise.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Autumn (Williams) 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, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

TUESDAY (June 20, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction.” (Matthew 9:35)

READING

“For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” (Psalm 100:5)

MEDITATION

There is a lot of richness packed into this simple sentence: “For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” God’s essence does not change. He is goodness. He is steadfast love, which has not end. He promises to be faithful to the ends of the earth and the end of time. We don’t have to guess who God is—He tells us and shows us each and everyday.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Abby (Creiglow) 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, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Lord’s Prayer

LORD’S PRAYER

WEDNESDAY (June 21, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction." (Matthew 9:35)

READING

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5: 6-8)

MEDITATION

Christ died for all. He died for the weak (that's us). He died for the ungodly (that's us before our baptism). He died for sinners (that's us, too!). There is nothing we do to deserve God's favor. Out of fatherly divine goodness and mercy, God sends His only Son to die that we might have life. That is good news, indeed!

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with David (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)

Almighty, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

THURSDAY (June 22, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction.” (Matthew 9:35)

READING

“Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” (Romans 5:9-11)

MEDITATION

The shedding of Christ’s blood, cleanses us from all sins. His death brings life. On the cross, Christ takes on the full force of the Father’s wrath and anger against sin—our sin, and the sin of the whole world. Because of Jesus’ submission on the cross, we are now reconciled to God. We have nothing to fear, for Jesus has given us new life, forgiveness of sins and rescue from our enemies, including our own sinful nature.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Allison (Yee) 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, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

FRIDAY (June 23, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction.” (Matthew 9:35)

READING

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.” (Romans 5:12-15)

MEDITATION

With his fall into sin, Adam brought us all into sin. The whole of creation was infected with the virus of sin, and we were stuck, waiting for the cure. Jesus comes to bring us healing and life by living the perfect life we could not. And then He takes all of our sin into Himself and bears it, even to the point of death. His death becomes our freedom. Christ is the antidote to sin and death. He is our Savior.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Art (Zavala) 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, eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

SATURDAY (June 24, 2023)

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction." (Matthew 9:35)

READING

"And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction. When he saw the crowds he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, '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.'" Matthew 9:35-38)

MEDITATION

Jesus is compassion. He is mercy. He is moved not only to preach, teach and proclaim the good news, He is also moved to heal our diseases and afflictions. Yes, suffering and sickness still exist for we live in this world tainted by sin. But Jesus comes as our Good Shepherd, to gently lead us home to Himself. Our ultimate healing is our death which leads to life eternal.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

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

PRAYER FOR THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, You once proclaimed salvation. Now grant that we may know this salvation and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

SUNDAY (June 25, 2023)

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.” (Jeremiah 20:13)

READING

“O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.” (Jeremiah 20:7-9)

MEDITATION

As a prophet, Jeremiah is called to be the voice of God. His vocation is to speak God’s Truth, and this Truth is often painful. Speaking the Truth can often bring derision and mocking, to the point of wanting to run and hide. And yet, Jeremiah is called to speak the Truth, and his heart burns and his bones become weary if he does not speak what God has called him to speak. We, too, are called to speak the Truth in love to those who are lost and searching. We speak of who we know—Christ, the merciful One.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Steve (Baldree), O Lord, and teach him to 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 God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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 (June 26, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers." (Jeremiah 20:13)

READING

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler." (Psalm 91-1-4)

MEDITATION

The Psalms are a rich source of seeing God's protection and care for His people. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1). God is our shelter. He gives us all we need and protects us from the evil one. We need not fear, for God covers us with His wings of mercy.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Paul (Cross) 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 God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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 (June 27, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.” (Jeremiah 20:13)

READING

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.” (Romans 6:12-14)

MEDITATION

The key word here is grace (gift). In baptism, Christ clothes us, or gifts us, with His righteousness—that is to say, He makes us right before God. In baptism we get Christ—all of Him. We get the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. As baptized believers, God calls us to live out who we are. Yes, the struggle can be fierce, for our desire is often to live as children of the darkness, hiding who we truly are (children of the Light), under our selfish ways. But we are never alone. Christ, the One who shines His Light into the darkness, sustains us by His grace.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Patrick (Fintel) 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)

O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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 (June 28, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.” (Jeremiah 20:13)

READING

“What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.” (Romans 6:14-19)

MEDITATION

The word *obedience* comes from the Latin word, *oboedire*, from *ob-* ‘in the direction of’ + *audire* ‘to hear.’ So, obedience is not a contest of the will—it is not summoning up enough willpower to resist sin. Obedience means, first of all, to hear. It means to listen to the voice of the One who set us free from sin by His death on the cross. Listen.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with Cecelia (Rutz) 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 God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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 (June 29, 2023)

St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

“Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.” (Jeremiah 20:13)

READING

“For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:20-23)

MEDITATION

The free gift of eternal life begins in the mysterious waters of baptism. In baptism we enter into a new reality – a life-changing reality where Christ’s death on the cross brings life. A life-changing reality where we become slaves, in order to be set free. A life-changing reality and pilgrimage that begins at the Baptismal font, continues to the Table and ultimately brings us face to face with Christ our Lord.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, APOSTLES

Merciful and eternal God, Your holy apostles Peter and Paul received grace and strength to lay down their lives for the sake of Your Son. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that we may confess Your truth and at all times be ready to lay down our lives for Him who laid down His life for us, even Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LORD’S PRAYER

FRIDAY (June 30, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers." (Jeremiah 20:13)

READING

"These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "...Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household." (Matthew 10:5, 21-25)

MEDITATION

Jesus sends out the twelve apostles, preparing them for rejection and persecution. This rejection and persecution is not an "if", but a "when". As Jesus Himself was ridiculed, hated and persecuted, so it will also be for those who follow him . Not a great motivational speech to be sure! And yet, the Church today is called to speak the Truth in a world hostile to Christ.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Father, we lift up Cheryl (Butts) 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 God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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 1, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers." (Jeremiah 20:13)

READING

""So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 10:26-33)

MEDITATION

"Fear not," says the angel to Mary as she is told she will bear the Christ in her womb. "Fear not," says the angels to the shepherds, "for behold, I bring you good news of great joy..." "Fear not," says Jesus to His disciples as He sends them out, assuring them of their worth before the Father. Fear not. Christ has claimed us. We are His.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Linda (Apodaca). 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 God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; 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 2, 2023)

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:39)

READING

"Look on my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget your law. Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to your promise! Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your statutes. Great is your mercy, O LORD; give me life according to your rules". (Psalm 119:153-156)

MEDITATION

We call upon the name of the Lord and He hears our prayers. He who formed us in the depths of the womb, hears our afflictions and delivers us from the evil one. He redeems us from sin, the power of the devil and from death. God's mercy is bigger and deeper than we could ever imagine.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Arturo (Zavala), O Lord, and teach him to 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, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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 3, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:39)

READING

"Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."" (Jeremiah 28:5-9)

MEDITATION

The people don't know it, but Hananiah is lying. He is considered a false prophet—one who offers slick promises, but is unable to deliver what he says for he speaks not from God, but from darkness. These false voices are seductive, leading us to want what sounds good and pleasing to our ears, except they are the voices of death. The true Voice giving us life is Christ. He alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless James (Linder) 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, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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 4, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:39)

READING

"Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress. Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code." (Romans 7:1–6)

MEDITATION

The law convicts and kills. It shows us our sin and our need for Christ. The way of life and freedom is in Christ alone. While we still sin daily, daily we are forgiven and renewed by the cross of Christ.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

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

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)

Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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 5, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:39)

READING

"What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good." (Romans 7:7-12)

MEDITATION

God's law is good and holy. It serves to show us our sin. But, the law does not produce life, in fact it brings death. In order to have new life in Christ, we die to sin—not that this is something we do. Oh, quite the contrary. We die to sin in our baptism where the old Adam is drowned. We die to sin each day as we confess our sins, (where that old Adam is drowned again and again), emerging out of the waters of forgiven in absolution.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Virginia (Gaddy) 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, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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 6, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:39)

READING

"Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from your testimonies. I look at the faithless with disgust, because they do not keep your commands. Consider how I love your precepts! Give me life according to your steadfast love. The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever." (Psalm 119:157-160)

MEDITATION

It is often in our sufferings and afflictions that we see our need for God. Suffering strips away pretense and the flawed idea that "we can fix everything ourselves." God knows our needs and asks us to come before Him in prayer. He is always ready to hear us when we pray. He is always ready to give us exactly what we need for body and soul.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Olivia (Jackson) 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, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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 7, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:39)

READING

""Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:34-39)

MEDITATION

Christ demands more than a *comfortable* Christianity. In fact, to be a follower of Christ is going to be highly unpopular. To be a follower of Christ may mean losing friends. To be a follower of Christ may mean family members turn against you and even shun you. To be a follower of Christ means giving up one's self – one's very life and all that goes with it. Christ demands are high. He loves us that much. He will settle for nothing less than our whole body and soul. In Christ we have true love and true life.

SILENCE**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Andrew (Mason) 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 God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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 8, 2023)

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

GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:39)

READING

""Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."" (Matthew 10:40-42)

MEDITATION

Jesus sends out the twelve apostles, girding them up for the sufferings and rejections they will encounter for His sake. Sufferings and persecutions which will intensify after His death and resurrection. As they speak in His name, it is as if they speak with His voice. The same is true of our pastors today. They are the voice of Christ, proclaiming the truth of His suffering, death, resurrection and ascension. Words that bring life to us week in and week out.

SILENCE

PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Terry (Currey). 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 God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; 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



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