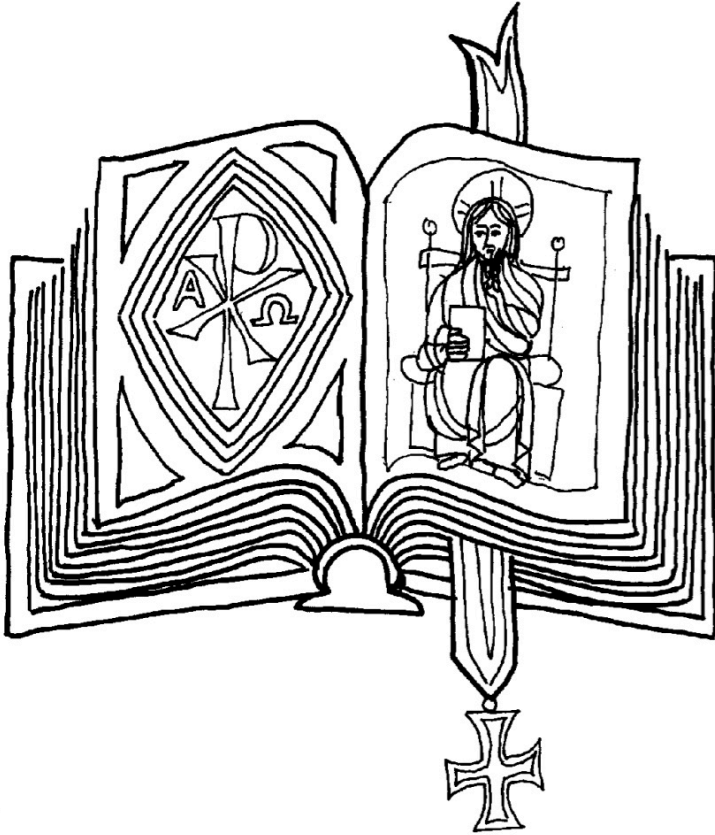


# Holy Cross at Prayer



Pentecost Week 13 to Pentecost Week 20, Series  
August 27 - October 21, 2023



## **SUNDAY (August 27, 2023)**

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### **GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-16)

### **READING**

"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. (Isaiah 51:1-2)

### **MEDITATION**

God gives us faith so that we might trust in Him, not in ourselves. We seek the Lord because He first found us. Just as God first called Abraham and Sarah, He calls us. God calls us out of darkness into His never-ending light. His righteousness is sure and steady as a rock.

### **SILENCE**

### **PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon MaryAnne (Swagger), 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 God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; 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 (August 28, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-16)

**READING**

"Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed." (Isaiah 51:4-6)

**MEDITATION**

The Word of the Lord endures forever. His righteousness will never disappear or suffer dismay. The things of this world are transitory, even creation will eventually wear out. What doesn't wear out is the love God has for all people and His desire for all people to be saved.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Bob (Schwermann) 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, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; 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 (August 29, 2023)

### Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

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

#### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-16)

#### READING

"I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased." (Psalm 138:1-2)

#### MEDITATION

God delivers us from all evil. He hears our prayers. He hears our pleas for mercy. God answers our prayers—perhaps not always in the way we desire, but He hears and answers us. Our prayers of thanksgiving acknowledge God as God—as steadfast love and faithfulness. He richly and daily showers us with His steadfast love and faithfulness. Rejoice in this!

#### SILENCE

#### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

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

#### PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THE MARTYRDOM OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Almighty God, You gave Your servant John the Baptist to be the forerunner of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in both his preaching of repentance and his innocent death. Grant that we, who have died and risen with Christ in Holy Baptism, may daily repent of our sins, patiently suffer for the sake of the truth, and fearlessly bear witness to His victory over death; 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 (August 30, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-16)

**READING**

"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands." (Psalm 138:7-8)

**MEDITATION**

The Psalmist is reminding God of who God has claimed to be—the One who endures forever. The One who preserves my life. The One who protects me from the evil one. God doesn't need reminding of who He is, but often, we need to be reminded of His greatness and graciousness. This is the Psalmists confession and prayer of faith in God. God promises to always be with us to guide and protect us.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Miss Kim (Academy Director) 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**

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; 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 (August 31, 2023)**

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

### **GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'" (Matthew 16:15-16)

### **READING**

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:33-36)

### **MEDITATION**

God's ways are not our ways. Yes, He reveals Himself in His Word. He gives Himself in the waters of Holy Baptism and The Lord's Supper. But we cannot know the mind of God. How can the finite ever begin to understand the infinite? This is part of the mystery of God. He reveals what we need to know, and for this we give Him glory and praise.

### **SILENCE**

### **PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Miss Octavia (Academy Assistant Director) this day, as she goes about the callings you have given to her. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; 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 (September 1, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-16)

**READING**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (Romans 12:1-5)

**MEDITATION**

God's mercies save us. His mercy through the life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus, gives us new life. Christ renews, restores and redeems us. He gives us Himself, so that we do His work in the world. The world will try to pull us away from what we know to be good and true, but Christ continues to call us to Himself. He continues to transform us into His image.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Miss Daisy (Academy staff) 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, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; 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 (September 2, 2023)

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-16)

### READING

"Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:13-18)

### MEDITATION

Peter confesses Christ as the promised Messiah. Peter's confession is the Church's confession. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. God is the source of all life. In fact, He raises His Son from the dead. He gives us new life, too, so that we might proclaim Peter's and the Church's confession to the world.

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Miss Celeste (Academy staff). 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, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; 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 (September 3, 2023 )**

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16)

**READING**

"O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:15-16)

**MEDITATION**

How can Jeremiah pray that God would take vengeance on his enemies? That doesn't sound very godly! What Jeremiah does is speak the desires of his heart to God. And in turn he listens (eats!) God's Words to him, and these Words became to him a joy and delight. Now that's a conversation!

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Miss Jules (Academy staff), 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 God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; 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 (September 4, 2023)

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16)

### READING

"I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them." (Jeremiah 15:17-19)

### MEDITATION

Jeremiah continues to speak of the anguish he is suffering. Why, O Lord? Why? God does not simply answer him and tell him why. Rather, God gives him something far more important. He gives him hope for the future. God does that for us as well. He gives us hope for each day. Our hope is in the One who forgives our sins, and where there is forgiveness of sins there is certainly life and salvation.

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Heavenly Father, bless Miss Lori (Academy staff) 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 God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; 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 (September 5, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16)

**READING**

"And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."" (Jeremiah 15:20-21)

**MEDITATION**

When the Lord is on our side, no one and nothing can prevail against us. That is God's promise to us. Yes, there will be strife and struggle. Yes, there will be trouble in this life. But God promises deliverance and redemption from all our enemies. In fact, He has already delivered us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We are given to "Fear not", for Christ has overcome the world and all sin and its effects.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Miss Jayden (Academy staff) 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 God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; 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 (September 6, 2023)

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16)

### READING

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Romans 12:9-13)

### MEDITATION

Who we are, as those belonging to the LORD, is given to us by Christ in our Baptism. So when St. Paul recounts this list, he does so always with an eye toward Christ who does all these things for us. Love, honor, rejoicing, patience in prayer, the list goes on. God calls us to treat one another as He has treated us. We don't do this in order to get something; we do this because we have already received all things in Him.

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with Miss Susan (Academy Staff) 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, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; 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 (September 7, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16)

**READING**

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight." (Romans 12:14-16)

**MEDITATION**

In our sinful flesh, we all think ourselves above those around us. But St. Paul calls us to think of others before ourselves, and to care for those around us. By our Lord's gifts through His Gospel, we are given to reflect the love of Christ upon our neighbor, too. Wisdom from God means seeing things from the perspective of God, for others. Look through the eyes of faith. There you will see God's grace at work.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Miss Dulci (Academy staff) 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, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; 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 (September 8, 2023)

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16)

### READING

"From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."" (Matthew 16:21-23)

### MEDITATION

Nothing will prevent our Lord from dying on the cross for our sins; nothing, not even His dear friend, Peter. Peter goes from his great confession ("You are the Christ, the son of the living God") to being reprimanded as an agent of Satan! But God is merciful, and draws Peter back into the fold, again and again. Just as He cleanses Peter, so He cleanses you from all sin through His Word of Promise.

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Father, we lift up Miss Reagan (Academy staff) 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, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; 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 (September 9, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16)

**READING**

"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25)

**MEDITATION**

Following Jesus means not following your sins into hell. For that is where they lead, only down that dark path of death. The life of the Baptized, is the life of repentance, death and resurrection. That is what is meant by following Jesus; through Baptism, we actually go from death to life eternal. God's Law kills, but His Gospel makes alive. The new man rejoices in God's gifts and lives by faith alone.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Miss Devynn (Academy staff). 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, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; 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 (September 10, 2023)

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20)

### READING

"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul." (Ezekiel 33:7-9)

### MEDITATION

God's warning to the watchman of Israel is sobering. Speak the Word! Even if the message is condemnation and warning. God's love for His people is such that He will speak sobering words, just so He does not risk losing anyone. We need to hear for life and salvation. But thanks be to God, His warning is not the final Word. For even when God's Law is spoken in its fullness, it is always meant to move us towards the final Word, Jesus, the Word of forgiveness.

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Let your grace be upon Miss Krystal (Academy staff), 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, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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 (September 11, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."" (Matthew 18:20)

**READING**

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good." (Romans 13:1-4)

**MEDITATION**

When St. Paul wrote these words in Romans, it is likely that the Roman Emperor at the time was Nero. Nero is the Emperor who murdered Christians for sport, literally burning them for torches in the night. It is this authority which Paul says comes from God. Even if authority is abused, and abusive, that does not change that this authority is from God. God operates according to the Law in the world, and sets up His rule through earthly rulers. Sin may mess that up, but God is very good at working through imperfect means.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Miss DeAnna (Academy staff) 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 God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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 (September 12, 2023)

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."" (Matthew 18:20)

### READING

"But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed." (Romans 13:4-7)

### MEDITATION

God uses earthly authorities to act as His hands and feet in the world. Parents, teachers, all the way up to the government, these people are given to act on His behalf, whether or not they do so rightly. As we live in this world, we are to hear and obey the authorities whom God has put before us. This does not mean for us to approve of sin, but it does mean to do everything we can to live in peace with our neighbors. God's grace, however, comes through the Gospel, not through the government or the Law. As those belonging to His eternal kingdom, we are given to pray for all in authority, for the protection of life and for justice for those with no voice.

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Miss Emily (Academy staff) 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 God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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 (September 13, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."" (Matthew 18:20)

**READING**

"Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." (Romans 13:8-10)

**MEDITATION**

God is Love. For us to love is God's gracious will. God completely looks to us and to our good. All of the commandments are an expression of that love. This is why the fulfilling of the law happened at the cross. It is there that God's love is given its fullest expression. God's love is for you, and through faith, God's love is concretely seen through your care for your neighbor. That is how God works in the world.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Miss Anna (Academy staff) 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, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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 (September 14, 2023)

### Holy Cross Day

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

#### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."" (Matthew 18:20)

#### READING

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matthew 18:1-6)

#### MEDITATION

We always want to know the pecking order. We want to know where we stand in relation to everyone else. But Jesus turns this on its ear and says that if we want to be "great" in the kingdom of heaven, we must become as little children. And like an infant knows the voice of its mother, in the same way, we are to listen to the Word of God in all things. All that we have is gift from our God who gives, not according to any merit or worthiness in us, but according to His mercy and love.

#### SILENCE

#### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

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

#### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS DAY

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**FRIDAY (September 15, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20)

**READING**

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish." (Matthew 18:10-14)

**MEDITATION**

God seeks out the lost ones, always. No one is too lost for God. He seeks you out and finds you. When He does, all of heaven and earth rejoices at your finding! He gathers us by His Spirit through His Gospel into His Kingdom. Jesus is the Good Shepherd sent to seek us out. Listen to Him.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Miss Bridget (Academy staff) 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, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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 (September 16, 2023)

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."" (Matthew 18:20)

### READING

""If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."" (Matthew 18:15-20)

### MEDITATION

Being in Christ means belonging to a family, a community gathered in His name. Sin seeks to divide, drive us apart, divorce the family and wreak havoc wherever it can. This is why reconciliation is so important. That is why everything in the Christian church is ordered towards the forgiveness of sins and the the gift of oneness, received through His body and blood.

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Miss Erin (Academy staff). 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, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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 (September 17, 2023)**

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy..." (Psalm 103:2-4)

**READING**

"When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. (Genesis 50:15-17)

**MEDITATION**

Joseph's brothers are troubled. They doubt his forgiveness. Luther has this to say, "For it is not without great difficulty that the heart longs for the kindness and pardon of God, from whom it flees and turns away by nature when it feels that He has been offended by many great and enormous sins. Then it is hard to grant admittance to consolation, and it is difficult for remission to cling to the heart, no matter with how many promises and with how many signs of God's goodwill it has been confirmed. From this one can gather what a sharp poison sin is in man's nature." (AE 8:324)

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Miss Jessica (Academy staff), 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, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**LORD'S PRAYER**



**MONDAY (September 18, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy..." (Psalm 103:2-4)

**READING**

"But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them." (Genesis 50:19-21)

**MEDITATION**

Joseph was able to see God's hand in his deliverance after his jealous brothers sold him into slavery. Throughout the many years separated from his family, God used Joseph to bring about His will and save many people. Eventually, Joseph had the opportunity to forgive his brothers for their jealousy, as if what they did was a good thing. He does not stand in judgement over them so that they should fear him. He assures them of his forgiveness. God forgives in the same. When God forgives, it is as if the offense never occurred.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Miss Niki (Academy staff) 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 God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**TUESDAY (September 19, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy...” (Psalm 103:2-4)

**READING**

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (Psalm 103:1-5)

**MEDITATION**

God is a God to be praised. We respond to His service to us, through the Gospel, in praise and thanksgiving. Thanksgiving flows from God’s own gifts. This is what it means to “bless the Lord”. For God is a God who loves us. He heals us and forgives us, not because of anything worthy in us, but purely because He is love.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Lydia (Hartwig) 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 God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

## WEDNESDAY (September 20, 2023)

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy..." (Psalm 103:2-4)

### READING

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:6-12)

### MEDITATION

God is a God of great mercy. He does not deal with us as we deserve. No, God gives us Himself and forgiveness. This forgiveness is spoken, granted and complete. There is no sin, once repented. It belongs to Christ, who put it to death on the cross. Once a sin is forgiven, it is gone. It is removed, "as far as the east is from the west". God's steadfast love, through Christ's death in our place removes all sin and guilt. And "by His stripes we are healed!"

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Be with David (Frausto) 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

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### LORD'S PRAYER

**THURSDAY (September 21, 2023)**

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy..." (Psalm 103:2-4)

**READING**

"For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living." (Romans 14:7-9)

**MEDITATION**

Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, neither life nor death, or anything else. On the cross, Christ suffered humiliation, weakness and death for our sakes. He redeemed us from the clutches of sin, death and the devil. He made us part of His Body, the Church. His death and resurrection are delivered to us through preaching and the Sacraments. We are kept safe in His one holy, Christian and apostolic church through Christ alone.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

**PRAYER FOR FEAST OF ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

## FRIDAY (September 22, 2023)

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy..." (Psalm 103:2-4)

### READING

"Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us will give an account of himself to God." (Romans 14:10-12)

### MEDITATION

It's so easy to judge fellow saints in the Lord and find fault with them. But who are we to withhold forgiveness when God has forgiven them? What if we were to get what we deserved? God, in His mercy is a God of forgiveness. In the end, all people will be before God on the final day of judgement. God alone will judge. Those who belong to Christ, those baptized into His name, are given freedom from fear on that day, for our sins were judged through Jesus on the cross. Therefore, we can cry in faith, "Come Lord Jesus!"

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Father, we lift up Saralee (Frausto) 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

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### LORD'S PRAYER

**SATURDAY (September 23, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy..." (Psalm 103:2-4)

**READING**

"Then Peter came up and said to him, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:21-22)

**MEDITATION**

Forgiveness is impossible to understand in our own reason and strength. Oh, yes, we want forgiveness, but in our sinful flesh, we also want to hold things over another person. And, what about that person? He's the one who "keeps on sinning"? How does that work, Jesus? Jesus responds by saying forgiveness has no limits. The forgiveness given to us, by the power of the Spirit through the Gospel, is given to the "other" as well. So, we forgive one another, just as Christ has forgiven us.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Sierra Rose (Frausto), 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, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

## **SUNDAY (September 24, 2023)**

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### **GOSPEL SENTENCE**

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)

### **READING**

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

### **MEDITATION**

God’s plans and reasonings are beyond our comprehension. There is no way we, with our limited and finite minds, can understand the infinite mind of God. Seeking to understand all things about God is futile. However, just because we cannot understand the ways of the Lord, we can trust in His Words and promises. God promises to never leave or forsake us. God promises to shower us with His mercy. God promises to forgive us and receive us back into His waiting and loving arms. Be at peace. God knows what we need and He provides it.

### **SILENCE**

### **PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Sophie (Ledic), 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**

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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 (September 25, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

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

**READING**

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident." (Psalm 27:1-3)

**MEDITATION**

The first sentence says it all: "The Lord is our light and our salvation". We have nothing to fear. We sing these words in Evening Prayer, "Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome". The Lord is also our salvation. He saves us. He rescues us from our enemies: sin, death and the devil. He banishes our fears by saving us from what would destroy us. Be confident in the Lord's promises.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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 (September 26, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

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

**READING**

"One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock." (Psalm 27:4-5)

**MEDITATION**

God is present with His people each week, gathering us around His Word and sacraments. He shelters and protects us. He gives us His Son Jesus whose gifts are eternal and free. Fear not! The Lord is here and He is FOR YOU, now and always.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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 (September 27, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

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

**READING**

"I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." (Philippians 1:12-14)

**MEDITATION**

God's Word often goes forth in the most unusual and difficult circumstances. Interestingly, Paul sits in jail for proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. And Paul's imprisonment advances the Gospel. As people on the "outside" talk about it, Paul has his own mission field right inside the prison. No matter how difficult our circumstances, when we are in Christ, His Gospel still goes forth. People notice. People "talk". And Good News is proclaimed. The Church, while assailed on many sides, is already victorious and nothing can change that.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Rick (Meynen) 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**

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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 (September 28, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

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

**READING**

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account." (Philippians 1:21-24)

**MEDITATION**

Paul's greatest desire is to die and be with Christ, for there is nothing better. However, he also recognizes his vocation as one who is sent by Christ to spread the good news. He is torn. The study notes in The Lutheran Study Bible puts it this way, "If you live as a Christian, you live by Christ's grace, in His image, to serve as Christ the people around you. If you die, you learn the fullness of what you had known in part and your fallen human nature no longer hinders you".

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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 (September 29, 2023)**

St. Michael and All Angels

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

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

**READING**

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have." (Philippians 1:27-30)

**MEDITATION**

God is a good and gracious God who bestows on us His gift of mercy. Christ redeems us by His death and resurrection. He gives us new life. He daily and richly forgives us, and walks with us. And then He gives us neighbors to love and serve in our vocations. This is what we are called to do. The grace He lavishes on us is not ours to hoard. Rather, He gives it generously to us, so through us, He can give His gifts to all who cross our path each day.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Tara (Fintel) 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 FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS**

Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also help and defend us here on earth; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

## **SATURDAY (September 30, 2023)**

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

### **GOSPEL SENTENCE**

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

### **READING**

"And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last." (Matthew 20:11-16)

### **MEDITATION**

This is a strange parable. But maybe it is one we can all relate to. Here the Master seems unfair. He pays those who work all day the same wage he pays those who worked one hour! How can this be?! The underlying message here is God is a generous giver. This is forgiveness. He gives the same gift to all sinners. There is no limit to His generosity and He freely gives it, regardless. And what God gives is always more than enough, it's immeasurable.

### **SILENCE**

### **PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

### **PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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 1, 2023)**

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."" (Ezekiel 18:32)

**READING**

"The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die." (Ezekiel 18:1-4)

**MEDITATION**

This proverbial saying about sour grapes and setting the children's teeth on edge is rather strange. Essentially what it means is this: Israel says to God, "Oh, don't blame ME for what is wrong. I am simply a victim of a miscarriage of justice." Through the prophet Ezekiel, God tells His people, "Stop blaming others for your misdeeds. The guilt is yours alone. All souls belong to me—I will be the ultimate judge." How often are we like the Israelites with our grumbling and complaining and blaming? It is far easier to be "the victim" than to own up to our own part in it, our guilt and misdeeds. God knows this. He calls us to repentance and gives us forgiveness in Jesus to wipe the slate clean.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon John (Barone) 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, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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 (October 2, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."" (Ezekiel 18:32)

**READING**

""Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."" (Ezekiel 18:30-32)

**MEDITATION**

God "repents us" (turns us) through His Word by the Holy Spirit. He lets us see our sin through His Law, and then turns us from it. If the law were the last word, we would sit in terror, for sin eternally separates us from God. But take heart, God is gracious. He gives His Holy Spirit who then creates faith, through the Gospel, and helps us in our time of need. The Gospel delivers to you the finished work of Jesus, releasing you from bondage to sin. He gives you, by the Gospel, grace, mercy and peace. God's ultimate desire is for our restoration and life through Christ alone.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless JoAnn (Dusky) 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 God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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 (October 3, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."" (Ezekiel 18:32)

**READING**

"So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:1-4)

**MEDITATION**

Jesus "came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28). This same Jesus invites us to live as He lived—in love, in joy and in service to one another. He calls us together as His Church—together through the Gospel. Jesus, the great Servant, beckons us to let go of pride, anger, resentment, power (whatever drives a wedge between us and someone else) and to put fellow believers' interests before our own. Only in Jesus is this possible, through the forgiveness of our sins - the Gospel.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Luca (Barone) 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 God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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 (October 4, 2023)**

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

### **GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."" (Ezekiel 18:32)

### **READING**

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-11)

### **MEDITATION**

It is strange to think of God emptying Himself. And yet, that is what Jesus did. He emptied Himself. He made Himself nothing in order that He might enter into our humanity in weakness. He took on frail flesh in order to accomplish what we cannot—obedience to His Father, even to the point of death. This is Love. God's love for us is more than we ever understand, and we gladly receive this gift through faith.

### **SILENCE**

### **PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

### **PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)**

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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 (October 5, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."" (Ezekiel 18:32)

**READING**

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain." (Philippians 2:12-16)

**MEDITATION**

Because of who Christ is and what He does for us, St. Paul exhorts us to live out who we are, by God's grace alone. We no longer need to get our own way. We need not grumble and complain when God has a better idea. (And, yes, St. Paul speaks here to the Church). We are forgiven through Baptism into His name. We live out this new life, by faith, with one another in the Church. We do this so we might be light in a dark world, darkened by sin and death.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Show your grace to Vicki (Schwermann) 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 exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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 (October 6, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."" (Ezekiel 18:32)

**READING**

"And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?"" (Matthew 21:23-25)

**MEDITATION**

The chief priests and elders try to trap Jesus once again by challenging His authority. In other words, they ask Jesus, "Just who do you think you are, anyway?" Jesus ""answers" with a question trapping his opponents in their own game. Like the chief priests and elders, we, too, want to challenge Jesus' authority. More often than we admit, we want to set the rules and be master of our destiny. Left to our own devices, we are on the road to self-destruction. Thankfully, Jesus is the ultimate answer.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Joshua (Williams) 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, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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 (October 7, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."" (Ezekiel 18:32)

**READING**

"And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things." (Matthew 21:25-27)

**MEDITATION**

Jesus' opponents, as clever as they think they are, have no answer for him. Their bravado fades and they show themselves as the cowards they really are. But the saddest reality is they deny that Jesus is the Messiah. In their zeal to find grounds to accuse Jesus, they are blind to the Truth that stands right before them. This blindness eventually brings Jesus to trial and to His death. But in His death (and resurrection), Jesus has the last word and shows by whose authority He speaks and lives.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

O Lord, in Holy Baptism you put your Name upon Charles (Froh). 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, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; 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 (October 8, 2023)

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

### READING

"Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?" (Isaiah 5:1-4)

### MEDITATION

This parable-like text begins as a love song to God for all He does for His people, Israel. The setting is paradise-like with rich and fertile land planted with the choicest of grapes expected to yield an amazing harvest and good wine. God creates the best environment possible for these grapes to grow. But something goes terribly wrong and the outcome is not the best wine grapes ever, but wild grapes of little use for wine making. Obviously, the fault is not with God. God is the Doer and Planter of all good vineyards, all good in life is from Him.

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Let your grace be upon Diane (Davis) 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

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 9, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

**READING**

"And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!" (Isaiah 5:5-7)

**MEDITATION**

God's words here are harsh. The beautiful vineyard (God's relationship with Israel) that He planted has gone sour and to waste. God speaks words of judgement—harsh words that reflect the unfaithfulness of His people. He gives them everything they need and more, and they live carelessly and bear no fruit. God, out of love for His wayward people, paints a picture of what happens when people are unfaithful—at some point they leave themselves open to the wiles and dangers of the world around them. How do we respond to these words of judgement? Certainly God is not unfaithful to us. Thankfully, He brings His Gospel through Jesus to you, to make you new and to make you His own.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Jack (Gaddy) 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)**

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 10, 2023)

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

### READING

"If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (Philippians 3:4-8)

### MEDITATION

St. Paul lays out his credentials as a faithful Jew with circumcision, bloodlines, adherence to the Pharisaical laws and even a persecutor of the church. In other words, he was a model Jew—and one could find no blame in him. In the Jewish religion and under the eyes of people, he has everything. But he counts that as nothing. Bloodlines, rules, or power no longer define who is in and who is out. Jesus Christ is the new measuring line. His credentials are not ones of power and might, but of love and compassion. Jesus comes for all—no one is left out.

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Lord Jesus Christ, be with Ivan (Hernandez) 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)

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 11, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

**READING**

"For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead." (Philippians 3:8-11)

**MEDITATION**

After his conversion, Paul, the persecutor of Christians, becomes an instrument of Christ, bringing the Good News of salvation and freedom to countless people. The way of Jesus seems upside down to the world we live in. Losing all to gain Christ? Gaining righteousness through Christ, not by our own good works? Sharing in Christ's sufferings? Gaining life through death? These are the realities of the Christian life. Mysterious yes, but real. The death and resurrection of Jesus is brought to us in our baptism where we die to sin—the old Adam is drowned. But we are raised up (as His resurrection is also ours), and we belong to Christ Himself, now a new Adam or person. Like Paul, we lose all things, even count them as rubbish, to gain this new life that our Lord gives to us through Baptism.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Be with Robin (Rogers) 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)**

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 12, 2023)

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

### READING

"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12-14)

### MEDITATION

Christ gives us His holiness in our baptism. In this sacrament, we receive Christ and all He is. And yet, we live in this broken world, surrounded by sin, death and the devil. We live in the tension of the now and the not yet, as we remain in our sinful flesh. Yes, we have everything, for we have Christ, but not fully or perfectly, until that last day. Until then, our baptismal life is a life of daily repentance, contrition and faith. We come to the Lord's Table to receive His Body and Blood—the food which delivers Jesus, sustaining our body and soul on this journey. While still in this world, we struggle, and even suffer, in this life of faith in Christ. But take heart, we are never alone, the Lord is with us.

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Show your grace to Jean (Soals) 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)

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 13, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

**READING**

""Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them." (Matthew 21:33-36)

**MEDITATION**

Jesus is still speaking to His opponents—those threatened by His ability to attract followers who, they fear, will ultimately be loyal to Jesus and not to them, the religious authorities. Jesus uses illustrations familiar to the Jews. Master (God), vineyards (Israel), tenants (unbelievers who oppose God). The prophets of old, including Isaiah, warned about Israel's wavering ways. Jesus' opponents would be pulled into this parable and think Jesus was leading them down a familiar road they understood. He had their attention.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Father, we lift up Miriam (Martin) 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)**

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 14, 2023)**

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

### **GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

### **READING**

"Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" (Matthew 21:37-42)

### **MEDITATION**

As Jesus continues this parable, His opponents are hooked in, and now Jesus delivers the punch—He uses Scripture to show them that they, the religious authorities, are the unbelievers. He shows them that they are the ones who kill the son. He shows them they are the ones who reject Him. He calls Himself the cornerstone. Jesus is the new Temple. Jesus is the Messiah. He is the one they have been waiting for, but they are blind and their hearts are hardened.

### **SILENCE**

### **PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

### **PRAYER OF THE WEEK (FROM SUNDAY)**

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; 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 15, 2023)**

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

**READING**

"On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations."  
(Isaiah 25:6-7)

**MEDITATION**

The Bible is full feasting language and imagery. It is the language of God's presence and His lavish gifts to His people. Feasting brings joy and delight. Feasting is always done in community. We feast week in and week out as we are gathered to the Lord's Table to receive His body and blood in Holy Communion, for the forgiveness of our sins.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Let your grace be upon Freya (Davis) 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 God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**MONDAY (October 16, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

**READING**

"He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."" (Isaiah 25:8-9)

**MEDITATION**

God saves. That's what the name Jesus means. He rescues us from all our enemies. He swallows up death forever, when He tastes death in our place. We need not fear death, for we know whose we are. We belong to God who will wipe away tears from our faces. We will feast at the never ending banquet with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

Heavenly Father, bless Spencer (Hartwig) 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**

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**TUESDAY (October 17, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

**READING**

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7)

**MEDITATION**

Jesus Himself is our peace. He gives us peace. That is the Hebrew word, *shalom*. Peace is not something we manufacture or will ourselves to obtain. It's a gift, the gift that the Gospel gives. God's peace is a mystery—it surpasses all understanding. We can't know it ourselves. But the peace Jesus gives, guards and protects our hearts and our minds in Christ. It cleanses us before God through the blood of Jesus. In Him we have rest, true Sabbath.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**WEDNESDAY (October 18, 2023)**

St. Luke, Evangelist

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

**READING**

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9)

**MEDITATION**

God's peace comes as a gift to us. It is not a commodity. As Christians, we belong to the crucified and risen Christ. Our life is shaped by hearing and receiving God's Word in faith, so that we might know what is true, honorable, just, lovely, commendable and excellent. We are given to walk this path, not by what we see, but by what we hear Him speak through His Word. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit is given, the Comforter, who gives us to walk with the certainty of God's promised peace in Christ Jesus.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

**THURSDAY (October 19, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

**READING**

"I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:10-13)

**MEDITATION**

St. Paul has learned to be content. He has led a life marked by power and riches, followed by a life of suffering and need. And through all this, he has learned that there is only one true place to find contentment and peace—in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the source of our strength and our contentment.

**SILENCE****PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**



## FRIDAY (October 20, 2023)

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

### GOSPEL SENTENCE

"...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

### READING

"And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'" But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests." (Matthew 22:1-10)

### MEDITATION

The kingdom of heaven is Jesus. He is the bridegroom for whom the king gives a great feast. His invitation extends far and wide. All are welcome to the banquet. The only ones left out are those who exclude themselves.

### SILENCE

### PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER

Father, we lift up Ron (Yates) 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

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER

**SATURDAY (October 21, 2023)**

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

**GOSPEL SENTENCE**

"...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

**READING**

""But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."" (Matthew 22:11-14)

**MEDITATION**

Hey, wait. Didn't we just read that all were invited to the wedding banquet? And that it was for everyone? And here is a man not dressed properly and he is cast out? What does that mean? Isaiah puts it this way, "...for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness..." (Isaiah 61:10b). God invites all to the feast. He dresses us in Christ. You are clothed in forgiveness. But to refuse Christ is to not be properly dressed in His righteousness, and then you are still in your own filthy sinful garments.

**PRAYER FOR HOLY CROSS MEMBER**

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

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**





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