

WALKING WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD:
A PASTOR'S PRAYERS FOR ALL SEASONS



Pastor Mark Anderson

INTRODUCTION

The prayers in this collection are relevant to Sundays in the church year and the assigned biblical texts for those days. The majority were written within the crucible of my ministry with congregations. Through these prayers, it is my hope that you will see something of what it means to walk together as pastor and people in every season of life. Prayers emerge from the very heart of life shared with God's people. They are woven into the real-world tapestry of our joys and sorrows, hopes and struggles. Each prayer is born from moments of celebration and mourning, faith and doubt, hope and heartache. As we employ them in the public worship of the church, our prayers rise as a collective voice, echoing the reality of our shared experiences, embodying not only our joys and gratitude but also the faltering faith, dim hopes, and misspent loves that bind us together as sinners in need of God's mercy. We pray, always, in the shadow of the Cross.

As we pray, the seasons of the church year invite us to make connections. Their great themes overlap just as our lives simultaneously reflect the hurts, hopes, victories, defeats, joys, and sorrows of living. As we live in the rhythm of the seasons, we learn to connect Christmas with Easter, Epiphany with Pentecost, our gladness with our sadness. The seasons carry us along in the baptismal promise that we, as God's people, are being brought through the storms and into the light, with Jesus.

The words we offer in prayer are only a beginning, points of departure out of the reality of living. We pray from the trenches, from the battle lines, and from the mountaintops. The language may be quite formal and traditional. At the same time, our words may reflect the informality and deep feeling aroused by honest, serious living. However we pray, our words connect us to the Word who became flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. And because our Lord was in the flesh for us, we may open our

trembling hearts and pray with confidence in every season of living. For there is nothing in our tumultuous human experience that is alien to God. The Holy Spirit advocates for us, offering intercessions with silent power, carrying our gratitude, whispered breaths and heavy longings into the heart of God's mercy.

Pastor Mark Anderson

THE CHURCH SEASONS

ADVENT

“When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.” *1 Corinthians 4:5*

Advent is from the Latin, ‘Adventus’, which we translate, ‘coming’. The New Testament translates Adventus with the Greek, ‘parousia’, or ‘presence’. We look for that new word (Christ is Risen, after all!) even as we await in hope and with eager longing the final coming, the celestial arrival, the cosmic unveiling of God’s kingdom. Any and every time the Word of the Gospel comes, the time of preparation is at an end. The stirred hopes represented by Advent are met even now in the Word of the Gospel.

Advent is waiting time. We wait in every season of life as we anticipate in faith that the new word the Holy Spirit inevitably brings. Abraham trusted God’s promise and followed a course of which he and Sarah could not see the ending. The years passed. In the ebb and flow of time their patience wore thin. Advent is any and every time when we want to give up, resign ourselves to the inevitable or take matters into our own hands.

We struggle, as so many have over the long centuries, with the delay of Christ’s final coming. We sing, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”. We pray, “How long?” We plead, “Come, Lord Jesus!” In this way our Advent prayers have both an immediate and a deep eschatological dimension.

CHRISTMAS

'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

Matthew 1:21

The hopeful hush of Christmas quiets the discordant world, at least for a moment, and that which we have longed for seems to be just within reach. Like children, unburdened and innocent, we sing with joy the melodies of Christmas. Through the giving of gifts, believers are reminded of the incredible gift. The babe lies in the manger surrounded by carols and candlelight, beneath the happy stars and joyful angels. Christmas restores the promise that heaven and earth are not so far apart for us.

We gather at that special season of the year to remember His coming once to Bethlehem, His coming among us now in Word and Sacrament and His final coming in glory at the end of the age. In the Incarnation God lays claim to the totality of life, retaking stolen ground.

The Christmas story merges with the fallen world as the mendacity, cruelty and cunning of King Herod anticipate Lent and Holy Week. Both starlight and the shadow of the cross fall across the manger. Christmas is the time of Emmanuel, God with us, under the shadow and threat of a persistent evil. The beleaguered family must flee to Egypt and wait. Jesus will return out of Egypt but to His unique Exodus, the baptism with which he must be baptized, His suffering and death. And here is the glory of Christmas; the One, true, Living God has come to embrace sin and death for us that our sin might be forgiven. We pray with gratitude as we gather round the manger. For the Glory of God is not expressed in grandeur or dominion, but in the solace, comfort, and wideness of His mercy.

EPIPHANY

“The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Savior Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.” Titus 2:11-14

He who is “light from light”, the True Light, has come. A star of “royal beauty bright” led the Magi to meet the Christ child; filled with the radiance of His greater light, a whisper from heaven warned them away. They ventured homeward to unfurl the light upon the darkened, restless world.

Epiphany is the season of life lived outward. Epiphany compels all who have loved His appearing, who have been brought into the true light of Christ, to speak the word of the gospel; for the bold beacon of the Word is the Light of Life.

Jesus, the light, is breaking through the darkness. The gospels unfold the righteous revelation of God. A toast to life reveals God’s good purpose; water is turned to wine and the people rejoiced. How were they to know the best was yet to come?! Epiphany reveals, it does not conceal. A mountain top scene reveals a brief, divine spectacle. The Law and the prophets retreat into the shadows while Jesus, the Son, is revealed in pure, luminous, radiant glory. The light quickly fades as the world awaits.

The hands of a reluctant John bury Jesus in the Jordan, with sinners. Barely baptized Jesus is driven toward the arms of alluring temptation. The Word stands firm, then sets out. Sins are forgiven, bodies restored, the outcasts are welcomed. The song of the kingdom weaves through the dissonance of a noisy world. The pace quickens. Jesus is resolute, unwavering, intent on fulfilling His single purpose; to die for the sins of the world. Epiphany’s focus is the Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Our constant prayer in Epiphany recalls the promise; the darkness will not overcome it.

LENT

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Psalm 51

Ash Wednesday is adamant. We do not have life in ourselves. The confident summer days of living will succumb to the ashen landscape of death's winter. Lent weighs heavily. Lent is any and every time we must come to terms with guilt, shame, loss, limitations, sorrow, grief, dying and death. Lent abolishes our identity in the law, our self-justifying delusions. The wages of sin will be paid.

Lent points to the Christian paradigm of baptism. Dying and rising with Christ find their corollaries in the real world of our vocations as people of the Cross, people of sorrow acquainted with grief. For vocation is the cross we bear. The direction of Lent matters. In baptism, God promises to take us more seriously than we are willing to take ourselves. Lent reminds us that life is a path through shadowed woods. Which is to say God is determined to keep us grounded in this world and His Word. To be baptized is to be drawn into Christ's life and ministry unto death. Lent impresses upon us the truth of our baptism; every day is dying time; every day is living time in Christ. He is the vine; we are the branches. We do not have life in ourselves. Apart from Him we can do nothing.

The “beauteous heavenly Light” of Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost is proclaimed into Lenten sorrow and speaks mercy, filling the heart with the healing flame of forgiveness. In the assurance of faith, with the psalmist, we dare the honesty of lament, for every time of lament is Lenten time. We confess our need to the Savior we need. When we are exhausted by the weight of living, tired of ourselves, of others, of the world, He is there for us, bearing and forgiving our sin, keeping us in the fire

and light of baptism's promise, repenting us with His word of life. For the Christian, Lenten time proclaims that all of life is a time of the Cross, interpreted by Easter. The prayer of Lent is simply this; 'Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

HOLY WEEK

"Christ humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name." *Philippians 2:8*

Like the rumble of distant thunder Holy Week resonates with an intensity that anticipates the haunting finale, the crucifixion of Jesus.

The breath of hope that accompanied Jesus' entry into Jerusalem carried with it an undertone of rejection, gnarled and deep-rooted like the ancient olive trees of Gethsemane. For in the hearts of those who clung fiercely to tradition and dogma, to those bound in the law, the advent of this enigmatic figure ignited a smoldering resistance, representative of humanity's antipathy toward the Living God. In Jesus, sinful humanity stumbles sensing that God is close, intruding on the territory we have claimed for ourselves, the existence we have stolen.

A table is set. Wine is poured. Bread is broken. The last will and testament is bequeathed. "This is my body, my blood, given for you for the forgiveness of sins."

In the Incarnation of Jesus, a bewildering embodiment of revolution, transgression and redemption, the mystery of God is not solved but revealed. God is determined to have mercy on us; to make an end of our betrayal, rebellion, and rejection. He will do it in His time and in His way and on His terms. The problem of sin will be resolved

not beneath or behind the Cross but on the Cross. A man will suffer. Blood will be shed. Moments from His death Jesus announces the divine verdict upon us all; ‘Father, forgive them’ ...it is finished.” God has made an end of us through the Cross, in Jesus, that He may be life for us.

THE EASTER SEASON

“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” *Romans 5:4*

The mangled, bloody cross has been cast upon the debris field that is history. The work is done! The Tomb is empty! The Word of God is not bound! It is on the loose, making all things new!

The Resurrection is no artificial light, no flickering neon bathing with the pallor of death the facades of the world’s glories. The prayer of Epiphany is answered by the Word of God; “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” The raging tempest of sin is impotent. The True Light will not be extinguished by the erratic gusts of the world’s unforgiving winds. The relentless tide of God’s grace rises and falls across the generations erasing the footprints of sin.

We proclaim the Easter faith joyfully, with assurance, courage, and conviction. We preach in the sure and certain confidence that the Cross and empty tomb are the indelible watermarks of grace etched upon time. The Risen Jesus is the flesh and blood sign, yet more than a sign, of the unyielding strength of God’s mercy. Easter is any and every time our doubts and dying are overwhelmed by the Living Word. For

those exhausted by the terrors and frightened by the tremors of living, we proclaim the absolution; 'In the name of Jesus, your sin is forgiven.' Our prayer at Easter is that the church might proclaim with joy and thanksgiving this external Word of God's Law and God's Gospel, the one, victorious word that sets us free.

PENTECOST

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Pentecost reaffirms the promise of the light. Word and fire illumine beating hearts with a living faith. A new community, filled with the light and life of Christ, will go storming across the world, mad with grace. The One Light that lay vulnerable in the manger, that went willingly to the Cross, could not be extinguished. The heavens are now opened in the Word of the Gospel. The Fire and Light of God's Word has come. The winnowing fork is in His hand. The old world is being burned to the ground even as the new creation is being born in the perpetual light of Easter's glorious morn.

Pentecost is a name for the life out of death, that very life of God that relentlessly presses the divine advantage, not for its' own sake, but for the sake of the world, for your sake. We call the Book of Acts the story of the church. But are we the subject? The church is the 'ecclesia' of God. The genitive of origin is decisive here. The church is that people created, elected in the power of the Holy Spirit at work through the Gospel Word. We are the acted upon, the baptized, those who are 'called, gathered, enlightened and sanctified'. The Spirit is the active power in faith, God's work in us; giving motive power to faith active in love. The Spirit taps the podium, tuning,

orchestrating our vocations into the deep harmonies of God's purpose. The Lord has given us the prayer for the season of Pentecost; "...Thy kingdom Come, Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven."

A SPECIAL NOTE ON REFORMATION SUNDAY

"The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." *Psalms 46*

Though its observance may have waned in many quarters, this day encapsulates the essence of a theological revolution that insists on Christ crucified as the heart of the gospel. Reformation Sunday stands as a pivotal beacon for all who proclaim the theology of the Cross, offering a profound reminder of the radical grace that reshapes our understanding of faith and salvation. It calls us to remember that in the shadow of the Cross, the world's wisdom is turned upside down, and God's power is revealed in weakness, vulnerability, and utter reliance on grace alone. The Reformation's legacy is not merely a historical event but a living, breathing reality that challenges us to see God's saving work in the very place where human strength is powerless. Reformation Sunday celebrates a divine mercy that transcends all human constructs and proclaims that salvation is a gift given, not earned, through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

COLLECTS FOR THE CHURCH YEAR



✚ ADVENT 1

YEAR A

ISAIAH 2:1-5 + PSALM 122 + ROMANS 13:11-14 + MATTHEW 24:36-44

Lord, patient expectation vies with anxious longing as we await the fulfillment of Your promises. Lead us tenderly through these days of anticipation and keep us steadfast in Your saving Word; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

ISAIAH 64:1-9 + PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 + 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9 + MARK 13:24-37

Awaken your power, O God, and come among us. Be our mighty fortress and shield, deliver us from ourselves, and lead us on the path of righteousness for Your name's sake; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

JEREMIAH 33:14-16 + PSALM 25:1-10 + 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13 + LUKE 21:25-36

Most gracious and merciful God, grant us faith to hear Your Word. Strip away the illusions of our self-sufficiency and open the eyes of our hearts that we may see the need for Your saving grace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ ADVENT 2

YEAR A

ISAIAH 11:1-10 + PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 + ROMANS 15:4-13 + MATTHEW 3:1-12

Almighty and merciful God, prepare our hearts this day to receive the coming of Your Word. For Your Word is living and active. Silence our striving and our attempts to earn your favor that we may rest in the finished work of your Son; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

ISAIAH 64:1-9 + PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 + 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9 + MARK 13:24-37

Almighty and ever-living God, enliven our hearts with your Word that we may receive with joy the good news of the birth of your Son, and that by His coming we may serve You in the quiet confidence of a living faith; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

MALACHI 3:1-4 + LUKE 1:68-79 + PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11 + LUKE 3:1-6

God of light and life, stir within us a deep yearning such as that of the prophets who foretold the coming of Your salvation. Guide us through the shadows of our doubt and dread, as we await the final dawning of your Son, our Luminous Redeemer; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✚ ADVENT 3

YEAR A

ISAIAH 35:1-10 + PSALM 146:5-10 + JAMES 5:7-10 + MATTHEW 11:2-11

Gracious Father, as the Creation groans, awaiting the fullness of redemption, stir within us a Holy discontent with the brokenness of our world and the frailty and futility of our own efforts. Awaken us by Your Living Word to the reality of Your kingdom breaking forth in unexpected places and empower us to bear witness to the true and peace and reconciliation that comes from You alone; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rule with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11 + LUKE 1:46B-55 + 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24 + JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

Most merciful God, You are always ready to hear the prayers of your people. Hear us as we pray from our trembling hearts, and by Your gracious Word bring light into our darkness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20 + ISAIAH 12:2-6 + PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7 + LUKE 3:7-18

Merciful Lord, Your grace illumines our lives even as dawn brings light into darkness. Open our eyes to the beauty of your creation, and our hearts to the glory of Your Word of promise; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ ADVENT 4

YEAR A

ISAIAH 7:10-16 + PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 + ROMANS 1:1-7 + MATTHEW 1:18-25

God of Hope, Your steadfast love and the renewing power of Your Word come among us even now. Grant us the courage to live as people of hope in a world filled with despair, knowing that You are always with us, guiding us through the shadows into the light of Your eternal day; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16 + PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26 + ROMANS 16:25-27 + LUKE 1:26-38

O God, You have been our hiding place throughout the generations. Come with Your sustaining and merciful word, that despite our sin Your will may be accomplished in us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

MICAH 5:2-5A + LUKE 1:46B-55 + HEBREWS 10:5-10 + LUKE 1:39-55

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son, guide us through these moments of remembrance. Open our ears to hear that Living Word which abides with us now and forever. Help us to trust Your presence in the fleeting triumphs and trials of living and find authentic hope in Your eternal promises. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✝ CHRISTMAS DAY: THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

YEAR A

ISAIAH 9:2-7 + PSALM 96+ TITUS 2:11-14 + LUKE 2:1-20

Gracious God, As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, guide us into the radical freedom found in your grace, and empower us to share the Good News of redemption with others; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

ISAIAH 62:6-12 + PSALM 97 + TITUS 3:4-7 + LUKE 2:1-20

O God, on this day You brought life and immortality to light in the birth of Your beloved Son. Grant that we who now live by faith may be brought to the fulness of His light and into the boundless joys of Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

ISAIAH 52:7-10 + PSALM 98 + HEBREWS 1:1-12 + JOHN 1:1-14

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, On this Christmas Day, we stand in awe of your unfailing love, revealed to us in the birth of your Son, Jesus. Into the long winter of our doubts and fears, bring the warmth and blessed assurance of Your mercy. Strengthen our faith and deepen our reliance upon your grace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

YEAR A

ISAIAH 63:7-9 + PSALM 148 + HEBREWS 2:10-18 + MATTHEW 2:13-23

Merciful God, you have poured upon us the radiant light of your incarnate Word. In Jesus Christ, we see your faithfulness made manifest. Grant that His divine light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth brightly in our lives, shielding us in joy and strengthening us in adversity. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

ISAIAH 61:10-62.3 + PSALM 148 + GALATIANS 4.4-7 + LUKE 2.15-21

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose divine will all things work toward Your good and gracious purposes, so liberate and guide our hearts that we may serve the world and our neighbors in the freedom of a living faith; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26 + PSALM 148 + COLOSSIANS 3:12-17 + LUKE 2:41-52

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Clothe all those baptized into Him with compassion, that we may love our neighbors; kindness, that we may reflect Your grace; humility, that we may serve with meekness; gentleness, that we may embody Your peace; and patience, that we may endure in faith. May Your peace rule in our hearts, guiding our thoughts and actions, and may we be bound together in the unity of a living faith; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

YEAR A

ISAIAH 60:1-6 + PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 + EPHESIANS 3:1-12 + MATTHEW 2:1-12

God, whose mercy knows no bounds, as we enter this season of Epiphany, unveil for us the profound truth of Your unmerited favor. Interrupt our pointless striving and searching and remind us that Your love is a gift, freely given and not earned. Open our hearts to embrace the gift of Your forgiveness, so that we may rejoice in the freedom and joy of Your boundless grace; Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

ISAIAH 60:1-6 + PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 + EPHESIANS 3:1-12 + MATTHEW 2:1-12

Almighty God, as You guided the star to reveal Your Son to all people, grant that we, the baptized, may be led from the darkest shadows and winding corridors of doubt to see You through the bright eyes of faith. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

ISAIAH 60:1-6 + PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 + EPHESIANS 3:1-12 + MATTHEW 2:1-12

Heavenly Father, we thank You for revealing the mystery of Christ to us through Your apostles and prophets, granting Gentiles the grace to become fellow heirs and members of the same body. Help us to share the boundless riches of the Gospel boldly and confidently with the whole world; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

YEAR A

ISAIAH 42:1-9 + PSALM 29 + ACTS 10:34-43 + MATTHEW 3:13-17

Heavenly Father, Your Beloved Son received baptism to fulfill all righteousness. We give You thanks that through the waters of baptism, according to Your promise and in union with His death and resurrection, You have established us in His righteousness and will bring us at last to the fulness of salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

GENESIS 1:1-5 + PSALM 29 + ACTS 19:1-7 + MARK 1:4-11

O God, in the waters of the Jordan, Your beloved Son was baptized into the swirling abyss of human sin. Hold us in the grip Your promise when our spirits sigh and the way is long, that we may know that in our winning and our losing Jesus remains at our side; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

ISAIAH 43:1-7 + PSALM 29 + ACTS 8:14-17 + LUKE 3:15-22

Gracious God, at the Jordan You revealed Your beloved Son in the waters of baptism. Thank You that in our baptism You have called us by name and claimed us as Your own, conforming us to His death and resurrection. Help us to trust in Your unwavering love and find solid assurance and true comfort in Your promises; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

YEAR A

ISAIAH 49:1-7 + PSALM 40:1-11 + 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9 + JOHN 1:29-42

Merciful Lord, we are all too aware of our doubts and fears. Reassure us that Your love for us knows no limits and Your amazing grace knows no end. Empower us to live boldly in the light of Your boundless mercy, embracing our identity as baptized children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

JONAH 3:1-5,10 + PSALM 62:5-12 + 1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31 + MARK 1:14-20

Almighty God, You are the Alpha and the Omega of our fleeting days; bring Your saving Word into the dark caverns of our hearts and minds that we may live always in that eternal peace the world neither knows nor gives; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

ISAIAH 62:1-5 + PSALM 36:5-10 + 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11 + JOHN 2:1-11

Heavenly Father, By Jordan's stream Your Son was revealed. By the inspiration of Your Spirit at work in the Word, reveal Him to us that we may we know Him as our Lord. And in the knowledge of a living faith trust that we are Your beloved children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

YEAR A

ISAIAH 9:1-4 + PSALM 27:1, 4-9 + 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18 + MATTHEW 4:12-23

Almighty Father, Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: bring the light of Your saving Word that through the power of the Gospel, Christ may be known and worshipped in the freedom of faith to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20 + PSALM 111 + 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13 + MARK 1:21-28

Lord God, You are not a God far off but a God who knows our fears and weaknesses. Extend Your merciful hand into the midst of our poverty and great need and be with us as we journey through perils of this life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

NEHEMIAH 8:1-10 + PSALM 19 + 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31 + LUKE 4:14-21

Faithful Lord, thank You for making us one body in Christ, each with our unique roles and gifts, yet united by the same Spirit. Help us to value and honor every member, recognizing that we are held in Your strong grip and that together we are made instruments of Your divine purpose; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

YEAR A

MICHA 6:1-8 + PSALM 15 + 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31 + MATTHEW 5:1-12

Lord and God, in the beatitudes Your Son increased the demands of Your law. We give You thanks, that those radical demands have been met by the even more radical grace and Mercy of Your forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

ISAIAH 40:21-31 + PSALM 147:1-11 + 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23 + MARK 1:29-39

Almighty God, you have been the strength of your people in every time of trouble. As we face the challenges, trials, and enticements of our time, enable us to stand in the comfort, assurance, and power of Your Word of promise; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

JEREMIAH 1:4-10 + PSALM 71:1-6 + 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13 + LUKE 4:21-30

Gracious God, thank You for revealing Your truth through Christ, even when it confronts our comfort and challenges our expectations. Embrace us in the radical grace of Your Word, that we may trust Your mercy over our own understanding and pride; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

YEAR A

ISAIAH 58:1-12 + PSALM 112:1-10 + 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-16 + MATTHEW 5:13-20

Heavenly Father, thank You for the powerful simplicity of the Gospel, centered on Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Help us to rely not on our own wisdom or eloquence, but on Your Spirit and power, revealed in our weakness. Strengthen our faith that we may rest solely on Your grace and the power of Your Word; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

ISAIAH 40:21-3 + PSALM 147:1-21 + 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23 + MARK 1:29-39

Gracious God, You shelter Your faithful beneath the wings of Your mercy. Keep Your church in a true and living faith, that we whose trust is in You may be protected from the principalities and powers set against us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

ISAIAH 6:1-13 + PSALM 138 + 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11 + LUKE 5:1-11

Almighty God, we stumble through the shadows, blinded by our pride, clinging to the illusion of control. Shatter the darkness of self-reliance and flood our hearts with the radiant light of your electing grace. Lead us, your chosen ones, out of the wilderness along the luminous path of your Word; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

YEAR A

EXODUS 24:12-18 + PSALM 2 + 2 PETER 1:16-21 + MATTHEW 17:1-9

Lord, in the radiant Transfiguration, You Son revealed His glory. Because He has gone through His exodus, even through death on the Cross, we dare to trust baptism's promise that we, too, will be brought out of death to life in Him; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR B

2 KINGS 2:1-12 + PSALM 50:1-6 + 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6 + MARK 9:2-9

Eternal God, like Peter, James, and John, fill us with wonder and awe at the revelation of Your Son. Open our ears to listen intently to His Word even as He walks with us over the stony paths and through the dark valleys of this life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

YEAR C

EXODUS 34:29-35 + PSALM 99 + 2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-4:2 + LUKE 9:28-43

Eternal God, In Your revelation to the disciples You displayed the glory of Jesus, Your Beloved Son. Bestow upon us, who are held in Your truth by grace through faith, the renewing gift of Your Holy Spirit, that we may boldly proclaim the Cross and the radiant glory of Your great mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE SEASON OF LENT

✠ ASH WEDNESDAY

YEAR A B C

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17 + PSALM 51:1-17 + 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10 + MATTHEW 6:1-21

Almighty and merciful God, though we are unholy, beset by sin, flaws, and failures, You invite us to come as we are. Repent us in Your boundless mercy. Turn us again from our bondage to sin into the freedom of a living faith; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Year A

GENESIS 2:15-3:7 + PSALM 32 + ROMANS 5:12-19 + MATTHEW 4:1-11

Gracious Father, during this season of Lent, repent us that we may see the truth of our sin, but also the promise of your redemption. Turn us from all that separates us from you and restore in us the baptismal promise of the new life that is in your Son: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

GENESIS 9:8-17 + PSALM 25:1-10 + 1 PETER 3:18-22 + MARK 1:9-15

Almighty God, Your beloved Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. Come quickly and help us who are assaulted by the lies of the Evil One; and, as you know our weakness, lead us to trust Your Word alone in the hour of temptation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11 + PSALM 91:1-2,9-16 + ROMANS 10:8B-13 + LUKE 4:1-13

Most merciful God, we too easily fall prey to the allure of pride, greed, and self-indulgence. In the face of such great powers, we can rely only on Your forgiveness and the sure and certain knowledge that our true refuge and safety are in Your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Year A

GENESIS 12:1-4A + PSALM 121 + ROMANS 4:1-17 + JOHN 3:1-17

Almighty God, in the new birth of baptism you declared us to be your children and heirs to your kingdom. We remember the promises sealed upon us then – the washing away of sin and the gift of new life in Christ. Throughout this earthly life anchor us in Your Word of promise which comes not because of anything we can think, say, or do, but purely as a gift of Your amazing grace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

GENESIS 17:1-16 + PSALM 22:23-31 + ROMANS 4:13-25 + MARK 8:31-38

O God, Your glory is always to have mercy: Bestow Your grace upon us who stumble incoherently in the darkness of this world, repent us again with steadfast faith, and embrace us in the unchangeable truth of your Word; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

GENESIS 15:1-12,17-18 + PSALM 27 + PHILIPPIANS 3:17 – 4.1 + LUKE 13:31-35

Gracious God, You are the quiet confidence in our turbulent days. Open our hearts to trust Your unfailing love, that we may fix our eyes on Jesus, the source and goal of our salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Year A

EXODUS 17:1–7 + PSALM 95 + ROMANS 5:1–11 + JOHN 4:5–42

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, the anxious world quenches its thirst in the poisoned wells of sin and rebellion. Give to Your Church the confidence to proclaim the Gospel Word - the living water who is Jesus our Lord; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

EXODUS 20:1–17 + PSALM 19 1 + CORINTHIANS 1:18–25 + JOHN 2:13–22

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Defend us physically and mentally, so that we may be guarded from all adversities that assault the body, and from all harmful thoughts that may twist and corrupt our hearts and minds; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

ISAIAH 55:1-9 + PSALM 63:1-91 + CORINTHIANS 10:1-13 + LUKE 13:1-9

Faithful God, the mighty acts of Your deliverance answered the faithless doubts and willful failures of Your people Israel. Come among us with Your Word this day, renew our trust in Your faithfulness and uphold us amid every temptation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Year A

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13 + PSALM 23 + EPHESIANS 5:8-14 + JOHN 9:1-41

Almighty God, to judge what we and others have coming in this life based on cause and effect is to see the world through our ways and not Yours. Open our eyes made blind by sin, not because of our deserving but solely on account of Your great mercy, that we might see the great opportunity of living as Your gift - and be thankful; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

NUMBERS 21:4-9 + PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22 + EPHESIANS 2:1-10 + JOHN 3:14-21

Gracious Father, Your blessed Son, Jesus Christ, descended from heaven as the true Bread of Life for all. Grant us this food eternally, that He may abide in us, and we in Him; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

JOSHUA 5:9-12 + PSALM 32 + 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21 + LUKE 15.1-3:11-32

Ever-Living God, We cling to the old, You come to make all things new. We stubbornly withhold reconciliation, You come to forgive and open the future. Repent us this day according to Your Word and bring us out of the bondage of our willfulness and into the light of Your love and mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Year A

EZEKIEL 37:1-14 + PSALM 130 + ROMANS 8:6-11 + JOHN 11:1-45

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, when sin has stripped us bare and we feel lifeless and purposeless, come with Your Word and restore us, that we may be held in a living faith even as we look to the Cross and see our righteousness to be only in Jesus; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

JEREMIAH 31:31-34 + PSALM 51:1-12 + HEBREWS 5:5-10 + JOHN 12:20-33

Almighty God, you alone can free the bound wills of sinners. By Your Word of promise, grant your people faith to love what you command, that among the swift and varied changes of this world, our hearts may be securely anchored where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

ISAIAH 43:16-21 + PSALM 126 + PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14 + JOHN 12:1-8

Almighty God, our refuge and strength, we often place our trust in earthly achievements, boasting in our accomplishments, forgetting that all good things come from You. Turn us from our pride and the burden of self-reliance toward the true treasure and source of all righteousness and freedom, Jesus our Lord; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

HOLY WEEK



✠ PALM SUNDAY

Year A

ISAIAH 50:4-9 + PSALM 118:1-29 + PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11+ MATTHEW 21:1-11

Gracious Father, at the beginning of this great and holy week Your Son revealed that true triumph would not result from earthly power. Rather, He emptied Himself, took the form of a servant and was obedient, for our sakes, even to death on the Cross. Mercifully grant that we, who were reborn in Your Son's death and resurrection by baptism, may live victoriously in that perfect freedom the world neither knows nor gives; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Year B

ISAIAH 50:4-9A + PSALM 31:9-16 + PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11 + MARK 15:1-47

Almighty and ever-living God, in Your love for us You sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross: Mercifully grant that we, the baptized, who walk in The fellowship of his suffering, may also share in the joyous life of His Resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

ISAIAH 50:4-9 + PSALM 31:9-16 + PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11 + LUKE 19:28-40

Almighty God, on this Palm Sunday we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, as He was heralded as king. Yet, fulfilling prophecy He came humbly, riding on a colt. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, who came not to be served, but to serve. Empower Your Church in these days to proclaim the Gospel, that many may be drawn to a living faith and confess this humble King as Lord of all; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ MAUNDY THURSDAY

Year A B C

EXODUS 12:1-14 + PSALM 116:1-19 + 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26 + JOHN 13:1-35

Almighty Father, on the night before His bloody passion, Your beloved Son instituted His last will and testament on behalf of sinners. Mercifully grant that we who receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, may do so in the sure and certain knowledge that these gifts of grace are given for us, for the forgiveness of our sin; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ GOOD FRIDAY

Year A B C

ISAIAH 52:13 – 53:12 + PSALM 22 + HEBREWS 4:14-16; 5:7-9 + JOHN 18:1 – 19:42

Almighty God, In the innocent suffering and death of Jesus upon the Cross, You have made known the depths of Your mercy. Grant us faith to trust in this profound gift of grace, that we may live in the assurance of Your forgiveness and proclaim Your redemption to the world; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Year A B C

ACTS 10:34-43 + PSALM 118:1-24 + 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-11 + JOHN 20:1-18

Almighty God, who in Your only begotten Son has defied the grip of death and thrown open the gates of everlasting life, grant that we, who with joyful hearts celebrate the day of the Lord's Resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin to life eternal according to Your promise; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A

ACTS 2:14-32 + PSALM 16 + 1 PETER 1:3-9 + JOHN 20:19-31

Gracious Lord, Following His resurrection Your Son came among the frightened disciples, those who had abandoned Him, and bestowed upon them His Word of peace and forgiveness. We thank You that even as we gather here, weak in faith and put upon by the fears and anxieties of this life, You bring us the assurance and peace of Your gospel; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

ACTS 4:32-35 + PSALM 133 + 1 JOHN 1:1-2:2 + JOHN 20:19-31

Almighty and everlasting God, in the mystery of Christ's Resurrection, You have accomplished our reconciliation and established us in Your Word of promise. Grant that all who have been baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body may now have the confidence that He is at work in us bringing forth the fruit of a living faith; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

ACTS 5:27-32 + PSALM 118:14-29 + REVELATION 1:4-8 + JOHN 20:19-31

Gracious and Sovereign God, You have revealed Yourself to us in the person of Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth: Pour out Your Spirit upon us, that we may live in the freedom of Your grace, knowing that our identity is secured in Christ alone.; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A

ACTS 2:14-41 + PSALM 116:1-19 + 1 PETER 1:17-23 + LUKE 24:13-35

Gracious and Loving God, As Christ walked with the disciples on the way to Emmaus and revealed Himself in the breaking of the bread, so walk with us in our daily lives. Open the eyes of our hearts to recognize You in the ordinary and the everyday and fill us with the joy of Your resurrection. Free us from our doubts and uncertainties, that we may trust in Your grace alone; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

ACTS 3:12-19 + PSALM 4 + 1 JOHN 3:1-7 + LUKE 24:36B-48

Gracious and Merciful God, who in Jesus Christ has come to us bringing peace and forgiveness: As Christ appeared to His disciples, showing them His wounds and opening their minds to understand the Scriptures, bring Your Word of life in our moments of doubt and fear. Grant us the peace that only You can give, and free us from the burden of our sin; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

ACTS 9:1-20 + PSALM 30 + REVELATION 5:11-14 + JOHN 21:1-19

Sovereign God, we join with the myriad of angels and all creation in singing Your praise: Come among us with the radical, all-sufficient truth of Your Word that we may know and trust that our worth is not in our achievements, but in the Lamb who was slain for us. Shatter our illusions of self-sufficiency and awaken us to the freedom that is in Christ alone; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A

ACTS 2:42-47 + PSALM 23 + 1 PETER 2:19-25 + JOHN 10:1-10

Gracious and Loving God, our Shepherd and Sustainer who gently leads us to green pastures and still waters, in a world fraught with uncertainty and fear, remind us that it is not our strength but Your grace that sustains us. As we walk through the valleys of shadow and death, grant us the profound peace that comes from Your presence alone, that we might rest in the assurance that our true home is in You; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

ACTS 4:5-12 + PSALM 23 + 1 JOHN 3:16-24 + JOHN 10:11-18

O God, Your Son Jesus is the Good Shepherd of Your people: Grant that we may hear his voice, know Him who calls us each by name, and be led from our willful wandering onto the paths of hope and joy that lead to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

ACTS 9:36-43 + PSALM 23 + REVELATION 7:9-17 + JOHN 10:22-30

Almighty God, Whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: Grant that we, whose trust is in Him alone, May be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, blessedness and eternal peace, according to Your promise bestowed in our baptism; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A

ACTS 7:55-60 + PSALM 31:1-16 + 1 PETER 2:2-10 + JOHN 14:1-14

Almighty God, to know You is to know everlasting life. Grant us to so trust Your Son to be the way, the truth, and the life, that our faith may be not grounded in human achievement or moral striving but only in what Jesus has accomplished for us through His Cross and Resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

Year B

ACTS 8:26-40 + PSALM 22:25-31 + 1 JOHN 4:7-21 + JOHN 15:1-8

Ever-Living God, Christ is the true vine, and we are the branches grafted into Him by the promise of baptism. Grant us, we pray, the grace to abide in Him, that we may bear fruit worthy of Your kingdom. Prune away all that hinders growth and cultivate within us, by Your Word and Sacraments, a living faith and deep and abiding love for You and our neighbor; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

Year C

ACTS 11:1-18 + PSALM 148 + REVELATION 21:1-6 + JOHN 13:31-35

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, Through the waters of baptism, You have brought us out of death and into Your kingdom of light and life. In Christ, we are made new creations. Grant us the faith to trust in Your promise that one day we will be brought to the fulness of salvation when You will wipe away every tear and make all things new; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A

ACTS 17:22-31 + PSALM 66:8-20 + 1 PETER 3:13-22 + JOHN 14:15-21

Heavenly Father, Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have revealed the depth of Your love and grace, promising us the Holy Spirit as our Advocate and Guide. Grant us, we pray, a steadfast faith in Your promises, especially as we experience Your grace through the sacraments, where Your love becomes tangible and touches our lives; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who Lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

ACTS 10:44-48 + PSALM 98 + 1 JOHN 5:1-6 + JOHN 15:9-17

○ God, you have prepared for Your people blessings that go beyond our comprehension. We rejoice with gratitude that the salvation we know now and that will be brought to perfection in the life to come, is dependent not upon our worthiness but upon Your steadfast love and mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

ACTS 16:9-15 + PSALM 67 + REVELATION 21:10-22:5 + JOHN 14:23-29

Heavenly Father, You have promised that through Your Spirit we become dwellings for Your presence. Be for us the peace the world never gives, a peace that surpasses all understanding. Free us from the bondage of our own efforts and use us as instruments of Your good and gracious will; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Year A

ACTS 1:1-11 + PSALM 47 + EPHESIANS 1:17-23 + MATTHEW 28:16-20

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord, we give thanks that Christ now reigns over all, seated at Your right hand. Grant us the faith to rest in His finished work, knowing that our salvation is secure and that He intercedes for us; through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

DANIEL 7:9-14 + PSALM 47 + ACTS 1:1-11 + MARK 16:9-20

Almighty and Ever-Living God, the ultimate ruler of all, You have lifted up your only Son, Jesus Christ in glorious triumph to reign alongside You in heaven. Keep us in the confident knowledge that according to His promise He remains with us and will bring to completion the good work He began in us; through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

ACTS 1:1-11 + PSALM 47 + EPHESIANS 1:15-23 + LUKE 24:44-53

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord, grant us the assurance that Christ now reigns in glory, where He has secured our place with Him. Fill us with the boldness to proclaim His victory, knowing our salvation rests entirely in His finished work; through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A

ACTS 1:6-14 + PSALM 68:1-35 + 1 PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11 + JOHN 17:1-11

Almighty God, You have glorified Your Son and granted Him authority over all people to give eternal life to those You have given Him. Grant us faith to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent, that we may be one as You and the Son are one, living in the liberating truth of Your Word and sharing the joy of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

ACTS 1:15–26 + PSALM 1 + 1 JOHN 5:9–13 + JOHN 17:6–19

Almighty God, As we dwell in this world, we seek Your protection from the snares of the evil one. Sanctify us through Your truth for Your word is the ultimate truth. Guide us, shield us, and keep us steadfast in Your Word of promise, that we may reflect the light of Your mercy amid the darkness of the world; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

ACTS 16:16–34 + PSALM 97 + REVELATION 22:12–21 + JOHN 17:20–26

Gracious Father, through Jesus' prayer for unity, draw us into the oneness of faith. And on account of His finished work upon the Cross for us, keep us in the sure and certain promise of Your Word of forgiveness, even as we eagerly await His Final coming in glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ DAY OF PENTECOST

Year A

ACTS 2:1–21+ PSALM 104:24–35 + 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3–13 + JOHN 20:19–23

Almighty God, as Christ breathed His peace upon His disciples, grant us the same abiding peace through His completed work, bestowed upon us now in Word and sacrament. Fill us with the Holy Spirit, that we may live in the freedom of Your grace, proclaiming Your forgiveness to the world. Unite us in the truth of Your Word, and anchor us in the promise of the resurrection to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

ACTS 2:1-21 + PSALM 104:24-35 + ROMANS 8:22-27 + JOHN 15:26-27 16:1-15

Ever-Living God, You have opened the way of eternal life through the Cross and Resurrection of Your Son. So empower Your Church that the proclamation of the Good News of redemption may spread far and wide across the world, bearing the fruit of deliverance according to Your will; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year C

ACTS 2:1-21 + PSALM 107 + ROMANS 8:14-17 + JOHN 14:8-27

Heavenly Father, in the promise of baptism You have made us Your children and heirs with Christ. Grant us the boldness to cry out, "Abba, Father," resting in the assurance of Your love. Empower us to live in the freedom of that amazing grace which is Your glory and our inheritance; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ TRINITY SUNDAY

Years A B C

ISAIAH 6:1-8 + PSALM 29 + ROMANS 8:12-17 + JOHN 3:1-17

Almighty and Eternal God, You dwell in unapproachable light, yet in Your boundless grace, You have revealed Yourself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Grant us the gift to know and marvel that in Jesus, the mystery of Your love and grace are unveiled; for by the glory of His cross, we have been brought from the darkness of sin into a true knowledge of You and Your everlasting mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Year A

GENESIS 12:1-9 + PSALM 33:1-12 + ROMANS 4:13-25 + MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26

Everlasting God, on the day of Pentecost, you ignited the flame of faith in the hearts of your disciples, sending them forth to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to all people. Raise up faithful witnesses in this generation, voices to boldly proclaim into the darkness of this world the message of the Cross; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

Year B

1 SAMUEL 3:1-20 + PSALM 139:1-18 + 2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-12 + MARK 2:23-3:6

Almighty God, You have called us, as You called Samuel, and You have entrusted us with proclaiming the Word of life. Even as we are hard pressed and tempted to silence on every side grant us the humility and courage to proclaim not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

Year C

JEREMIAH 17:5-10 + PSALM 1 + 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20 + LUKE 6:17-26

Almighty God, as Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep, grant us faith to trust that in our baptism we, who have already been brought from death to life, will enter the fullness of salvation in the resurrection to eternal life. Deliver us from the futility of our striving and anchor us in the certainty of Your victory over death. Empower us to live in the freedom of Your grace, proclaiming the hope of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

✠ THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Year A

GENESIS 18:1–15 + PSALM 116:1–19 + ROMANS 5:1–8 + MATTHEW 9:35—10:8-23

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the peace we have through our Lord Jesus Christ, a peace that fill us with the assurance that, even in our suffering, You hold us in the grip of Your grace. Keep us in the promise of baptism where Your love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, producing endurance, character, and hope, the fruits of a living faith; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Year B

1 SAMUEL 8:4–20 + PSALM 138 + 2 CORINTHIANS 4:13–5:1 + MARK 3:20–35

O God, who calls us beyond human boundaries into the radical grace of Your Kingdom, grant us faith to trust Your Word over all earthly ties, and courage to follow Your will in the face of all opposition; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

1 KINGS 19:1-15 + ISAIAH 65:1-9 + GALATIANS 3:23-29 + LUKE 8:26-39

Gracious God, who delivers us from the bondage of sin and death, grant us the power of Your liberating Word that we might live free from all that enslaves us, proclaiming Your mighty works and serving as instruments of Your love to a world in need; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Year A

GENESIS 21:8-21 + PSALM 86:1-17 + ROMANS 6:1-11 + MATTHEW 10:24-39

Merciful God, who provides us rest amid life's burdens, grant us the grace to hear Your voice, know the peace in Words of Your promise, and boldly proclaim Your redemption to all; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

Year B

1 SAMUEL 15:34-16:13 + PSALM 20 + 2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-13 + 14-17 MARK 4:26-34

Lord of the harvest, You sow the seeds of Your Kingdom in unexpected ways. For the work of Your Word always makes a way. Grant us faith to trust in Your hidden work and the patience to await its fruition, that we may rejoice in the growth You bring; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

Year C

2 KINGS 2:1-14 + PSALM 16 + GALATIANS 5:1-25 + LUKE 9:51-62

Steadfast God, You call us to follow without turning back. Lead us with the creative boldness of Your Spirit to leave behind all that hinders and joyfully journey with You in the freedom of faith; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Year A

GENESIS 22:1-14 + PSALM 13 + ROMANS 6:12-23 + MATTHEW 10:40-42

Gracious God, You meet us in humble service and simple acts of love. Grant us the grace and faith to recognize Your open hand in those who welcome and serve, that we may give thanks for Your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Ame*

Year B

1 SAMUEL 17: 1-23 + PSALM 9:9-20 + 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-13 + MARK 4:35-41

Merciful God, who reconciles us through Your grace, empower us to live as witnesses to Your righteousness amidst trials and hardships, that in our hope may be contagious and reveal Your steadfast love to the world; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

Year C

2 KINGS 5:1-14 + PSALM 66:1-9 + GALATIANS 6: 1-16 + LUKE 10:1-20

Gracious God, You call us to bear one another's burdens in the freedom of Your Spirit. Grant us the humility to restore in gentleness those faith has faltered and the strength to bear with one another in all things, through Your love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Year A

GENESIS 24:34–67 + PSALM 45:10–17 + ROMANS 7:15–25 + MATTHEW 11:16–30

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, who invites the weary to find rest in You, grant us the humility to cast our burdens on You that amid all the various circumstances of living we may live in the comfort, safety, and freedom of Your grace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

2 SAMUEL 1:1–27 + PSALM 130 + 2 CORINTHIANS 8:7–15 + MARK 5:21–43

Gracious Father, You come to us in our times of deep despair, when we struggle with illness or are dispirited by the works and ways of the world. By Your strong Word of promise increase our faith and renew in us the living hope that sees beyond the faults, frailties and failures of this mortal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

Year C

AMOS 7:7–17 + PSALM 25:1–10 + COLOSSIANS 1:1–14 + LUKE 10:25–37

Faithful God, You guide us in Your truth even as You keep us in Your steadfast love. Increase our trust in Your promises and lead us through the dark entanglements of our uncertainties, that we may walk faithfully and lovingly in the pure light of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Year A

GENESIS 25:19–34 + PSALM 119:105–112 + ROMANS 8:1–11 + MATTHEW 13:1–9, 18–23

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, You guide us through our human struggles and the entanglements of our bad choices. Anchor us in Your promises and in Your enduring grace shape our lives according to Your gracious will; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

2 SAMUEL 5:1–10 + PSALM 48 + 2 CORINTHIANS 12:2–10 + MARK 6:1–13

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, You send Your Church into the world with the Word of the Gospel to bring forgiveness, healing, and hope. Grant Your people the boldness of a living faith that we may proclaim the message of salvation into all the various trials circumstances of living; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

AMOS 8:1–12 + PSALM 15 + COLOSSIANS 1:15–28 + LUKE 10:38–42

Gracious God, You invite us to sit at Your feet and hear Your Word. Turn us from the distractions and pressing obligations of living, which the world is more than ready to provide, that we may cherish the stillness, peace and renewal of Your presence; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

GENESIS 28:10–19 + PSALM 139:1–24 + ROMANS 8:12–25 + MATTHEW 13:24–36

Lord of the harvest, You plant seeds of grace and truth amidst the weeds of this world. Grant us patience to await the fullness of Your Kingdom, discernment to recognize Your work among us, and the courage to trust in Your promise that You will bring forth the bountiful harvest of faith; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

2 SAMUEL 6:1–19 + PSALM 24 + EPHESIANS 1:3–14 + MARK 6:14–29

Gracious God, in the face of opposition and fear, we receive our strength in Christ's finished work. Help us to stand firm in Your truth, even when it challenges us or leads to sacrifice. Empower us to proclaim Your Word boldly, reflecting the hope and confidence we have in Jesus; through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

HOSEA 1:2–10 + PSALM 138 + COLOSSIANS 2:6–19 + LUKE 11:1–1

Gracious God, in baptism according to Your promise, You have rooted and grounded us in Christ, the fullness of Your grace. Help us to stand firm in the freedom of His victory and resist any false teachings that would lead us astray. Strengthen us to embrace our identity in Him and reflect Your love and truth in all we do; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

GENESIS 29:15–28 + PSALM 128 + ROMANS 8:26–39 + MATTHEW 13:31–52

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, as Your Spirit intercedes for us in our weakness, strengthen our trust in Your unbreakable love. Help us to rest in the assurance that nothing can separate us from the grace we have in Christ. Empower us to live boldly in this truth, reflecting Your enduring faithfulness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

2 SAMUEL 7:1–14 + PSALM 89:20–37 + EPHESIANS 2:11–22 + MARK 6:30–56

Faithful God, we praise You for Your unchanging promises and steadfast love. As You established David's throne forever, assure us of Your eternal faithfulness to Your Word. Strengthen our hearts us to trust in Your enduring grace and live confidently and faithfully in the hope we have through Christ; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

HOSEA 11:1–11 + PSALM 49:1–12 + COLOSSIANS 3:1–11 + LUKE 12:13–21

Heavenly Father, set our hearts and minds on the things above, where Christ is seated in glory. Repent us of our old selves and embrace us in the new life of faith we have in Him. Empower us to live out our authentic identity as Your beloved children amid all the vocations of living, that we may be instruments of Your grace and love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

GENESIS 32:22–31 + PSALM 17:1–15 + ROMANS 9:1–5 + MATTHEW 14:13–21

○ Merciful Father, amid the frailty of our wants and the willful bondage of our limitations, let us be ever mindful of the limitless bounty You bestow through Christ. As Jesus, with loaves and fishes, nourished the multitude, so reveal for us the fullness of Your grace in our daily lives. Strengthen our faith to trust in Your benevolence that our lives may be the gracious instruments of Your generous hand; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

2 SAMUEL 11:1–15 + PSALM 14 + EPHESIANS 3:14–21 + JOHN 6:1–21

○ Gracious God and Father, Your vast love transcends the bounds of mortal comprehension. We humbly pray that You would grant us wisdom through the Spirit to grasp the immeasurable goodness of Your mercy. As we are rooted and grounded in the love revealed through Christ, so keep us firm and steadfast in Him. Overflow our hearts with the riches of Your glory and empower us to live in the glorious freedom of faith; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

ISAIAH 1:1–20 + PSALM 33:12–22 + HEBREWS 11:1–16 + LUKE 12:32–40

○ Sovereign and Eternal God, You tenderly bestow the Kingdom upon the meek and the lowly. Grant that all the baptized, in the simplicity of faith, might embrace the profound assurance of Your promises. As we await with vigilance the return of our Lord, let our hearts be ever prepared, free from the snares and downward pull of worldly concerns. Bless us with the wisdom to be faithful stewards, reflecting the boundless grace we have received through Your beloved Son; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

GENESIS 37:1-28 + PSALM 105:1-22 + ROMANS 10:5-15 + MATTHEW 14:22-33

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, through Christ You have fulfilled the Law and proclaimed the message of salvation. And having been made alive through the Good News of Your imputed righteousness, by the power of Your Word make us bold to proclaim Your salvation to all corners of the earth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

2 SAMUEL 11:26-12:13 + PSALM 51:1-12 + EPHESIANS 4:1-16 + JOHN 6:24-35

O God of all Mercy and Grace, We give thanks that You provide the true Bread from heaven, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we may not seek to satisfy our hunger in the transient sustenance of this world, but in the everlasting life found in Christ alone. As we partake of Your boundless grace through Word and sacrament, nourish our souls and renew us in faith; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

ISAIAH 5:1-7 + PSALM 82 + HEBREWS 11:29-12:2 + LUKE 12:49-56

Almighty and Merciful God, we give thanks that You guide the faithful through every trial. Through Word and sacrament, keep us in Jesus, the author and perfecter of our salvation. And in the knowledge that we are surrounded by the witness of those who have gone before us, strengthen us with the courage to run our course on earth with hope and confidence; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

GENESIS 45:1–15 + PSALM 133 + ROMANS 11:1–32 + MATTHEW 15:10–28

Almighty and Eternal Father, Even as You hear even the subtle murmurs of the humble heart, You also heard the Canaanite woman's steadfast plea. May the supplications of our persistent faith touch the hem of Your mercy. Bind us to Your Cross, where all barriers dissolve and grace flows free; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

2 SAMUEL 18:5–33 + PSALM 130 + EPHESIANS 4:25–5:2 + JOHN 6:3–51

Gracious God, You revealed the depths of Your grace through the broken body and shed blood of Christ. Nourish us with the true sustenance of His presence. As we partake in the feast of His body and blood, strengthen our faith and remind us of the promise of baptism where You have bound us to the finished work of His Cross and Resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

JEREMIAH 1:4–10 + PSALM 103:1–8 + HEBREWS 12:18–29 + LUKE 13:10–17

Merciful God, whose touch transforms the mundane into the miraculous, lift us from the shadows of our burdens and break the chains of our constraints. Grant us eyes to see the quiet revolution of Your grace unfolding in our hearts and lives. In the shadow of Your Cross, let us discover an unexpected freedom that defies our understanding. Transform us with Your boundless mercy, freeing us to serve You with a joy and gratitude that reflect the abundant grace You bestow; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

EXODUS 1:8—2:10 + PSALM 124 + ROMANS 12:1–8 + MATTHEW 16:13–20

Almighty God, You reshape us through the renewing of our minds. By Your Word, enable us to present ourselves as living sacrifices in the paradox of Your grace. May our offerings of service and humility astonish us, revealing the hidden grandeur of Your gracious will. Conform us to the image of Christ, whose Cross unveils the profound mystery of Your mercy, love, and grace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

1 KINGS 2:10–12; 3:3–14 + PSALM 111 + EPHESIANS 5:15–20 + JOHN 6:51–58

Gracious God, in the waters of baptism You have called us to live within the wisdom born of Christ's Cross. By that wisdom redeem the time in ways that reflect Your grace. Let our speech and actions overflow with thankfulness. Turn our everyday moments into expressions of Your love and empower us to embrace the joy of living under Your mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

JEREMIAH 2:4–13 + PSALM 112 + HEBREWS 13:1–16 + LUKE 14:1–16

Almighty and Everlasting God, who in Your boundless mercy extends grace to the humble and the contrite heart, guide Your Church to welcome the outcast and the penitent. As we gather at Your table, ever conscious of our great need and unworthiness, transform us by Your great mercy and keep us always in the shadow of the Cross; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

EXODUS 3:1–15 + PSALM 105:1–26 + ROMANS 12:9–21 + MATTHEW 16:21–28

Eternal Sovereign, You revealed the paradox of Your glory on the Cross. Grant us to follow Christ with a faith that delights in divine contradiction. As He spoke of suffering and the loss of self to find true life, bring us to the unexpected joy of faith as we take up the daily work of our vocations. Transform all our understanding with the surprise of grace, where surrender becomes victory and loss becomes gain; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

1 KINGS 8:1–43 + PSALM 84 + EPHESIANS 6:10–20 + JOHN 6:56–69

Almighty God, You come to us in the sacramental meal of Christ's flesh and blood, inviting us to receive Your grace in the profound paradox of Your table. As many turn away from the scandal of this visible Word of grace, grant us the surprising strength to cling to them with a living faith. Transform our doubt into faith, and our reluctance into joyful embrace, as we proclaim the incomprehensible truth of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

JEREMIAH 18:1–11 + PSALM 1 + PHILEMON 1:1–21 + LUKE 14:25–333

O Divine Redeemer, You walk upon the tempestuous waters of our doubt, granting us the stability of faith in the paradox of Your grace. As Peter stepped out in faith and faltered, reveal to us Your hidden strength in our profound weakness. Transform our fears into bold trust and our sinking into salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

EXODUS 12:1–14 + PSALM 149 + ROMANS 13:8–14 + MATTHEW 18:15–20

○ Sovereign Lord, who binds together the threads of discord and harmony with Your grace, guide us in the paths of reconciliation. As we seek to navigate the challenges of correction and forgiveness, may we discover the deep joy in healing what is broken. Transform our divisions into unity, revealing the profound mystery of the Cross in every act of mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:8–13 + PSALM 45:1–2, 6–9 + JAMES 1:17–27 + MARK 7:1–23

Almighty and Ever Living God, You expose the hidden truth behind our outward forms and rituals. By Your Word, lead us to recognize the true essence of worship within our hearts. As You challenge our pretenses and purify our inner selves, transform our brokenness into a genuine worship that trusts Your always reliable Word; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

JEREMIAH 4:11–28 + PSALM 51:1–10 + 1 TIMOTHY 1:12–17 + LUKE 15:1–10

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, You unveil the hidden depth of Your mercy by transforming the sinner into a vessel of grace. As Paul, once the persecutor, found redemption in the crucible of Your love, may we too be astonished by the surprising power of Your forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

EXODUS 16:2-15 + PSALM 105:1-45 + PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30 + MATTHEW 20:1-16

Almighty Father, You bring the turbulence of our lives into the symmetry of Your grace. Bring us through Your Word to embrace the paradox of finding life through surrender and triumph in the face of trial. As Paul spoke of living in Christ and dying as gain, unveil the hidden joy in our sacrifices and struggles, that our glory may be in the Cross alone; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

PROVERBS 1:20-33 + PSALM 19 + JAMES 3:1-12 + MARK 8:27-38

Eternal God, You confront our grasping for glory with the paradox of the Cross. By the power of the Gospel lead us to see the hidden truth in Christ's call to deny ourselves. As Peter's vision of a triumphant Messiah gave way to the scandal of suffering, open our eyes to the unexpected grace in our own denials and failures. Transform our ambitions into reflections of the Cross and give us the victory that means surrender; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

JEREMIAH 8:18-9:1 + PSALM 113 + 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7 + LUKE 16:1-13

Gracious and Merciful God, Your grace weaves our petitions into the grand tapestry of Your purposes. We know You hear the hidden longings in our earnest requests. Hear our humble prayers and bring us to trust in Your good and gracious will in all things; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

EXODUS 17:1-7 + PSALM 78:1-16 + PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13 + MATTHEW 21:23-32

O Living God, You subvert the order of a prideful world with the grandeur of Your humble sacrifice, the paradox of a God who exalts the lowly. As You emptied Yourself to free us from our bound wills and fallen nature, transform our hearts that we may see the victory that is the Cross; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

PROVERBS 31:10-31 + PSALM 1 + JAMES 3:13-4:3, 7-8A + MARK 9:30-37

Heavenly Father, You flipped the script of greatness with the scandalous humility of the Cross. Bring us by Your Word to know the power in humble service. As You, the Lord of all, embraced the innocence and vulnerability of a child, reveal the hidden strength in our lowest acts of kindness, love, and service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

JEREMIAH 32:1-15 + PSALM 146 + 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19 + LUKE 16:19-31

Ever Living God, the Psalmist sang of Your kingly justice and deliverance. In the crucifixion of Jesus, You redefined the very essence of kingship and established true liberation and freedom in His humble reign. May Your Church proclaim the Cross as the judgment on the kingdoms of this world and the sign of Your kingdom of mercy and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

EXODUS 20:1–20 + PSALM 19 + PHILIPPIANS 3:1–14 + MATTHEW 21:33–46

Almighty and Risen Lord, whose Cross shattered the illusory towers of human ambition, reveal to us the hidden power in Your finished work. May Your Church dare to proclaim with the force and power of Your Word that the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone of salvation and the bedrock of a New Creation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

ESTHER 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22 + PSALM 124 + JAMES 5:13–20 + MARK 9:38–50

O Merciful Lord, You astonished many by turning the humble and the unworthy into vessels of Your grace. Confront our biases, pride, and prejudices and transform our limited perceptions into gracious reflections of Your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

LAMENTATIONS 1:1–6 + PSALM 37:1–9 2 + TIMOTHY 1:1–14 + LUKE 17:5–10

Almighty God, whose boundless grace shines through the veil of our frailties, unveil to us the hidden majesty of Your completed work in Christ. As Paul, transformed from persecutor to proclaimer, found strength in Your profound mercy, lead us to discover unexpected grace in our own weakness. Turn our humble, stumbling efforts into reflections of Your triumphant cross; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

EXODUS 32:1-14 + PSALM 106:1-23 + PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9 + MATTHEW 22:1-14

Heavenly Father, Your grace surpasses the bounds of our understanding. As the Apostle Paul encourages us to find joy and peace through Your redeeming Cross, bring assurance to our troubled hearts. Meet us in our frailties with that all-sufficient grace that flows from the depth of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

JOB 1:1; 2:1-10 + PSALM 26 + HEBREWS 1:1-4; 2:5-12 + MARK 10:2-16

O God, We give You thanks for turning our expectations upside down with Your boundless grace, revealing the surprising strength in Christ's finished work. As we witness to Your love embracing the least and the lowly, reveal Your grace in our own weaknesses and transform our very ordinary lives into reflections of Your radical, extraordinary mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

JEREMIAH 18:1-11 + PSALM 139:1-17 + PHILEMON 1-21 + LUKE 14:25-33

Almighty God, You mold our lives with grace beyond our understanding and shape us anew through the surprising power of Your Word. As the clay is molded in the potter's hands, use us according to Your will, as vessels of Your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

EXODUS 33:12-23 + PSALM 99 + 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10 + MATTHEW 22:15-22

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, You turn the tables on our self-righteous schemes, revealing our unworthiness in the light of Christ's grace and the triumph of the upside-down kingdom of the Cross. As coins are marked by earthly rulers, let our lives be stamped not by power and prestige, but by Your divine grace and mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

JOB 23:1-9; 16-17 + PSALM 22:1-15 + HEBREWS 4:12-16 + MARK 10:17-31

Gracious God, You see through our illusions of piety and reveal our poverty before Your boundless grace. As the rich young man faltered, remind us of our own insufficiency and the surprising riches found only in Christ's all sufficient finished work; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

JEREMIAH 29:1-7 + PSALM 111 + 2 TIMOTHY 2:8-15 + LUKE 17:11-19

Almighty God, You cleanse the unclean and mend the broken, exposing our unworthiness and granting us hearts of gratitude. As the lone leper returned to give thanks, we marvel at the surprising work of Your grace which creates faith apart from anything we think, say, or do; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

REVELATION 7:9-17 + PSALM 34:1-22 + 1 JOHN 3:1-3 + MATTHEW 5:1-12

Gracious Lord, You grant us new birth through the waters of baptism and free us by the gift of Your grace. Keep us in the freedom of faith that we may trust in Christ's finished work and lead us always according to Your good and gracious will; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

PROVERBS 1:20-33 + PSALM 19 + JAMES 3:1-12 + MARK 8:27-38

Merciful God, who through baptism unites us to Christ's death and resurrection, grant us the freedom of Your grace. As we take up the crosses of our various vocations, empower us in faith us to live boldly in the gift of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

JEREMIAH 31:27-34 + PSALM 121 + 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:5 + LUKE 18:1-8

Almighty God, You guard our every step with a vigilance that defies our expectations. Turn our gaze from the pitfalls and anxieties of this world to the surprising grace that flows from Your unwavering watchfulness. Transform our fears into confidence, anchored not in our own strength, but in Your all-sufficient grace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ ALL SAINTS

YEAR A B C

ISAIAH 25:6–9 + PSALM 24:1–10 + REVELATION 21:1–6A + JOHN 11:32–44

Eternal God, by the power of Your Word You call forth sinners from their graves with the scandal of resurrection, shattering the power of death with Your unexpected grace. May we, with all the baptized, rejoice in this profound mystery, knowing that in baptism, by Your Word of promise, You have brought us from death to life with Christ; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

JOSHUA 3:7–17 + PSALM 107:1–37 + 1 THESSALONIANS 2:9–13 + MATTHEW 23:1–12

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, You turn the proud to dust and lift the humble to the realm of grace. Repent us of our misplaced aspirations. Disrupt our lofty schemes with the quiet strength of Your Law and Gospel and transform our quest for status into a life of faithful service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

RUTH 1:1–18 + PSALM 146 + HEBREWS 9:11–14 + MARK 12:28–34

Gracious God, You shatter our notions of greatness with the simplicity of Your mercy and reveal Your love in the midst of our complex lives. In the freedom of faith transform our misguided, pious devotion into acts of unexpected grace. Free us from the tangled webs of our own making to embrace the clarity of Your kingdom's call; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

JOEL 2:23-32 + PSALM 84:1-7 + 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-18 + LUKE 18:9-14

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, You keep the promise of baptism and surprise us with the grace that dwells in our deepest longings. As we wander in the desolate valleys of our own making, let the unexpected spring of Your presence transform our dry places with the living water who is Jesus our Lord; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✚ THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

JOSHUA 24:1-25 + PSALM 78:1-7 + 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18 + MATTHEW 25:1-13

Gracious and Merciful Lord, our failures become the backdrop for Your love and grace. As the wise virgins found their place at the table, repent us into recognizing the scandalous abundance of Your mercy in our humble readiness. Surprise us with Your timely grace and bring us at last to the feast of victory that will know no end; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

RUTH 3:1-17 + PSALM 127 + HEBREWS 9:24-28 + MARK 12:38-44

Gracious Lord, You treasure the gentle whisper of faith over the thunder of the world's pride. As the widow's poverty shone in contrast to the world's wealth, repent our pride into the weakness of faith that we may serve as instruments of Your mercy and grace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

HABAKKUK 1:1-4; 2:1-4 + PSALM 32:107 + 2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-12 + LUKE 19:1-10

Almighty and Gracious God, We praise You for seeking out the lost and lifting up the despised. As You called Zacchaeus down from the tree and into the fellowship of Your embrace, so call us from our places of comfort and complacency. Surprise us with Your mercy that transforms sinners into beloved children, turning our lives upside down with Your relentless love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

YEAR A

JUDGES 4:1-7 + PSALM 123 + 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11 + MATTHEW 25:14-30

Almighty God, we thank you that You entrust us with talents not for our boasting but for Your kingdom's gain. Repent us of our expectations of success with the grace of humble faithfulness. As the servant who buried his treasure learned of hidden riches, so reveal to us the paradox of Your economy: that in losing we find, and in giving we gain. Transform our small acts of stewardship into echoes of Your abundant grace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR B

1 SAMUEL 1:4-20 + 1 SAMUEL 2:1-10 + HEBREWS 10:11-25 + MARK 13:1-8

Eternal God, amidst the world's tumult of false predictions and fleeting certainties You have revealed the Cross and Resurrection as the true measure of hope. Grant us the eyes of faith to see beyond the fleeting and ears to hear the eternal promises of Your Word. As the world convulses with signs and portents, establish us on the steadfast cornerstone who is Jesus our Lord, a rock unshaken and a promise never to be broken; through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

YEAR C

HAGGAI 1:15-2:9 + PSALM 17:1-9 + 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-17 + LUKE 20:27-38

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, You dispel the shadows of our mortal limitations with the light of the Gospel. Repent us from our darkness and restore us in the promise of our baptism. As we await Your final coming, save us from the downward pull of darkness and anchor us in Your steadfast Word; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

✠ CHRIST THE KING

YEAR A B C

2 SAMUEL 23:1-7 + PSALM 132:1-18 + REVELATION 1:4B-8 JOHN 18:33-37

Eternal and Omnipotent God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, stands as the Alpha and Omega, the very origin and consummation of all life. We find ourselves poised at the edge of the age's end, yearning for the emergence of the New Creation. Sustain us in vibrant faith through Your boundless grace, that we may fervently proclaim the salvation embodied in Jesus, even as we anticipate the glorious fulfillment of Your everlasting promises; through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

ABOUT PASTOR MARK ANDERSON

Pastor Mark Anderson was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mark's great-grandfather, immigrated from Sweden and served as a Lutheran pastor until his retirement in the 1920's. Mark's father walked in his grandad's footsteps also serving as a Lutheran pastor and an Air Force chaplain.

During his father's active-duty years as an Air Force chaplain, the family lived in Texas, Hawaii, and California. Mark's teenage years were spent in southern California during the rollicking sixties where he played in a band managed by the famous Disc Jockey Casey Kasem. He is an avid guitar and bass player and woodworker.

Pastor Mark graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota in 1973 with a double major in history and religion. His primary historical interest is in ancient history. He entered Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota, completing his seminary internship in campus ministry under Pastor Carl Lee at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. Mark was ordained at Trinity Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin by his father the Rev. Gen. Carroll Anderson, and Pastor Carl Lee in 1977.

During his 46 years in the parish ministry, Mark served both rural and urban congregations in Minnesota, Montana, and California. He also served as an Air National Guard chaplain, with tours at Buckley Air Force Base, Denver, Colorado, and March Air Force Base, Riverside, California.

Mark and his wife Linda (his constant support, advocate, best friend, and by far the better half!) reside in Coto de Caza, California. They have enjoyed many travel adventures together with a definite preference for Italy! They have three children, Erik, Geoff (married to the adorable Jenn), and Kristin.

In grateful partnership with the **1521 Foundation**, Corona del Mar, California, and **Luther House of Study**, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Mark is host of the **God's Word is Life** website, a platform committed to the proclamation of the genuine freedom and authentic hope that are in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Mark Anderson
31982 Via Coyote, Coto de Caza, California, 92679
www.pastormarkanderson.org