

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 93. **Tuesday** 1 Peter 3:8-12. **Wednesday** John 16:16-24. **Thursday** (Ascension of Our Lord) Luke 24:44-53. **Friday** (Matthias, Apostle [transferred]) Luke 6:12-16. **Saturday** 2 Kings 2:13-15. **Seventh Sunday of Easter** Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11.

CELEBRATE May 10, 2026

Volume 57, Number 2

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1553. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$5.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Anne Krentz Prager. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year A. 15 of 15  
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# Celebrate

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 10, 2026

*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they

would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'  
<sup>29</sup>"Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Bless our <sup>1</sup> God, you peoples;  
let the sound of <sup>1</sup> praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us a- <sup>1</sup> mong the living  
and has not allowed our <sup>1</sup> feet to slip. R**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have <sup>1</sup> tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- <sup>1</sup> ver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us in- <sup>1</sup> to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- <sup>1</sup> on our backs.**

<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through <sup>1</sup> fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place <sup>1</sup> of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house <sup>1</sup> with burnt offerings  
and will pay <sup>1</sup> you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup>those that I promised <sup>1</sup> with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I <sup>1</sup> was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the <sup>1</sup> smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- <sup>1</sup> en and goats. R**

<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you <sup>1</sup> who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has <sup>1</sup> done for me.

<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God <sup>1</sup> with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord <sup>1</sup> with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil <sup>1</sup> in my heart,  
the Lord would <sup>1</sup> not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup>**but in truth <sup>1</sup> God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound <sup>1</sup> of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not reject- <sup>1</sup> ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing <sup>1</sup> love from me. R

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defa- mation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous,

in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrec- tion of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## Gospel

John 14:15-21

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If you love me, you will keep my command- ments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world can- not receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my com- mandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."