

## Prayers of Intercession

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

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 75. **Tuesday** Zephaniah 3:1-13. **Wednesday** (Mary Magdalene, Apostle) John 20:1-2, 11-18. **Thursday** (commemoration of Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373) Psalm 119:129-136. **Friday** Acts 7:44-53. **Saturday** (James, Apostle) Mark 10:35-45. **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost** 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

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Tracts 1 and 2

# Celebrate



Sunday, July 19, 2026  
8th Sunday after Pentecost

*It is an age-old question: Why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day when all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

## Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

*There are no other gods besides God: the word of the LORD does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.*

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them

proclaim it;

let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be. <sup>8</sup>Do not fear or be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

## Preparing for Next Week

or Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 [not printed]

*God's deeds of forgiveness and gift of hope indicate that God's faithful people must also show kindness. No other god cares for all people.*

