Prayers of Intercession

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

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people yearning for liberation.

A brief silence.

Holy Advocate, you descended on Jesus at his baptism, calling him beloved. Pour out your Spirit on your church, that we may follow boldly in Christ's mission of healing, justice, and mercy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Spirit of creation, you moved over the waters and breathed new life into all things. Renew the earth and all its creatures, that your justice and peace might flow through every land. (*We pray especially for . . . local sources of water may be named.*) Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Voice over the waters, your word calls forth creation and invites us to listen. Guide leaders and all who seek to protect the vulnerable. Renew society with truth and compassion. Guide us to pray for our enemies. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Loving Parent, you claim us as your children in baptism and call us to live in freedom. Strengthen those facing oppression, especially those seeking refuge or asylum. Embrace those who need your healing touch (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Source of new life, you re-create us daily in your grace. Empower our congregation to repair harm and serve our community, that your reign of justice and peace may flourish. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal Wellspring, we remember ancestors who traveled paths of faith before us (*especially*). Inspire us by their courage and hope as we live into your vision of freedom for all your beloved children. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those we cannot name, as you claim us through the waters and call us to new life in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36. **Tuesday** Acts 22:2-16. **Wednesday** Isaiah 41:14-20. **Thursday** Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18. **Friday** (commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, 1968) Acts 13:16-25. **Saturday** 1 Samuel 2:21-25. **Second Sunday after Epiphany** (commemoration of Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, c. 356; Pachomius, renewer of the church, 346) 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51.

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Celebrate

Baptism of Our Lord
January 10, 2027

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

Prayer of the Day
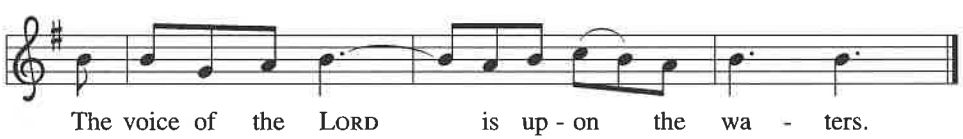
Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading — Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, [2]the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. [3]Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. [4]And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. [5]God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm — Psalm 29; refrain, Ps. 29:3



Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.
[2]**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;**
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.
[3]The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.
[4]**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;**
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. **R**
[5]The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
[6]**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,**
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.
[7]The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
[8]**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;**
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. **R**
[9]The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"
[10]**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;**
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.
[11]O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. **R**

Second Reading — Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. [2]He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." [3]Then he said, "Into what, then, were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." [4]Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." [5]On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6]When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied; [7]altogether there were about twelve of them.

Gospel — Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5]And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. [6]Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. [7]He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. [8]I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

[9]In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. [10]And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. [11]And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."