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.

God who claims us in baptism, send us forth as your witnesses, equipped to share your love boldly and to spread your message of peace throughout all the world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of creation, you filled this earth with beauty and abundance. Inspire us to protect the land, waters, and creatures entrusted to our care, that your creation may heal and flourish. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of freedom, ignite the fire in those who challenge oppression and work for the common good. Encourage communities to rise and serve with unyielding kindness, fearlessness, and steadfast solidarity. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of compassion, you see the vulnerable and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those ensnared by poverty's grip and move us to act for the sake of those who are marginalized and forgotten. We pray for any who are lonely, sick, or grieving (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God who calls us by name, open our hearts to your presence in unexpected places. Guide the youngest and the oldest among us to serve your mission with faithfulness and bravery. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of justice and peace, you inspired the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to dream of a world where all are free and equal. As we remember his life this week, empower us to carry forward his vision with courage, love, and unwavering commitment. 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 (Confession of Peter; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins) Matthew 16:13-19. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, 1156) Acts 5:1-11. **Wednesday** Luke 18:15-17. **Thursday** (commemoration of Agnes, martyr, c 304) Psalm 62:5-12. **Friday** 2 Peter 3:1-7. **Saturday** Luke 10:13-16. **Third Sunday after Epiphany** Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.

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Celebrate

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 17, 2027

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

Prayer of the Day

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading — 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to
the LORD under Eli. The word of the
LORD was rare in those days; visions
were not widespread.
2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had
begun to grow dim so that he could
not see, was lying down in his room;
3 the lamp of God had not yet gone out,
and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God
was. 4 Then the LORD called, "Samuel!
Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!"
5 and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am,
for you called me." But he said, "I did
not call; lie down again." So he went
and lay down. 6 The LORD called again,
"Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to
Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called
me." But he said, "I did not call, my
son; lie down again." 7 Now Samuel did
not yet know the LORD, and the word of
the LORD had not yet been revealed to
him. 8 The LORD called Samuel again,
a third time. And he got up and went
to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you
called me." Then Eli perceived that the
LORD was calling the boy. 9 Therefore
Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and
if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak,
LORD, for your servant is listening.' "
So Samuel went and lay down in his
place.
10 Now the LORD came and stood
there, calling as before, "Samuel!
Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak,
for your servant is listening." [11 Then
the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am
about to do something in Israel that
will make both ears of anyone who
hears of it tingle. 12 On that day I will
fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 For I have told him that
I am about to punish his house forever
for the iniquity that he knew, because
his sons were blaspheming God, and
he did not restrain them. 14 Therefore
I swear to the house of Eli that the

continued

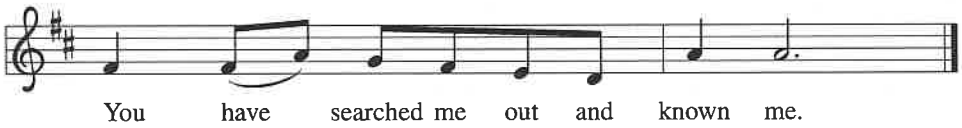
iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

15Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. 16But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." 17Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." 18So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

19As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. 20And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

Psalm

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; refrain, Ps. 139:1



LORD, you have | searched me out;
O LORD, | you have known me.
2You know my sitting down and my | rising up;
you discern my thoughts | from afar.
3You trace my journeys and my | resting-places
and are acquainted with | all my ways.
4Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it | altogether. R
5You encompass me, behind | and before,
and lay your | hand upon me.
6Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;
it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it.
13For you yourself created my | inmost parts;
you knit me together in my | mother's womb.
14I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made;
your works are wonderful, and I | know it well. R
15My body was not hid- | den from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths | of the earth.
16Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written | in your book;
my days were fashioned before they | came to be.
17How deep I find your | thoughts, O God!
How great is the | sum of them!
18If I were to count them, they would be more in number | than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to | be like yours. R

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

"All things are permitted for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are permitted for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. 13"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for sexual immorality but for the Lord and the Lord for the body. 14And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. 15Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." 17But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18Shun sexual immorality! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against the body itself. 19Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Gospel

John 1:43-51

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." 51And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."