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 of majesty, illuminate your church and all the baptized. Transform us to reveal your love with clarity and courage, that we may bear witness to Christ's power in every place. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creator of joyful splendor, your majesty shines in the Jordan's flowing river, the sunrise and sunset, fire and cloud, high mountains and low plains. Inspire us to safeguard these wonders and seek restoration for all creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of renewing light, expose truth to those in power. Transform systems of punishment into paths of healing and restoration. Raise up leaders who pursue equity with wisdom and courage. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of tender compassion, enlighten us to see Christ's face in all who suffer. Comfort those who are poor, grieving, sick, or forgotten (*especially*). Move us to respond to one another with compassion and care. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God who sustains us, as you revealed your majesty on the mountain, reveal your presence in this congregation. Bless our ministries and strengthen us through changes, especially leadership transitions and discernment (*specific transitions/ministries may be named*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of mighty prophets, we honor Elijah, Elisha, and the company of witnesses. Comfort those who grieve and rend their garments, enfolding them in your eternal peace and boundless care. 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 110:1-4. **Tuesday** Job 19:23-27. **Wednesday** (Ash Wednesday) Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. **Thursday** Psalm 25:1-10. **Friday** 2 Timothy 4:1-5. **Saturday** Matthew 9:2-13. **First Sunday in Lent** (commemoration of Cyril, monk, 869; Methodius, bishop, 885; missionaries to the Slavs) Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

CELEBRATE February 7, 2027 Volume 58, Number 1

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 $6.79 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 © 2026 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 Robert A. Hobby. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year B.
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Celebrate

Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 7, 2027

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, 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 — 2 Kings 2:1-12

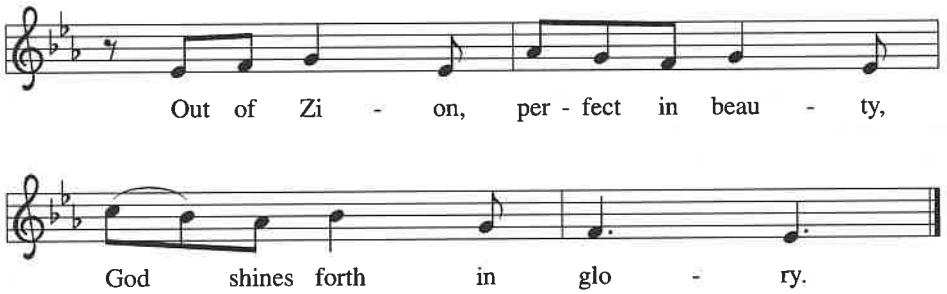
Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.

Now when the LORD was about to
take Elijah up to heaven by a whirl-
wind, Elijah and Elisha were on
their way from Gilgal. 2Elijah said to
Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has
sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha
said, "As the LORD lives and as you
yourself live, I will not leave you." So
they went down to Bethel. 3The com-
pany of prophets who were in Bethel
came out to Elisha and said to him,
"Do you know that today the LORD
will take your master away from
you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep
silent."
4Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay
here, for the LORD has sent me to
Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD
lives and as you yourself live, I will not
leave you." So they came to Jericho.
5The company of prophets who were
at Jericho drew near to Elisha and
said to him, "Do you know that today
the LORD will take your master away
from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I
know; keep silent."
6Then Elijah said to him, "Stay
here, for the LORD has sent me to the
Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD
lives and as you yourself live, I will
not leave you." So the two of them
went on. 7Fifty men of the company
of prophets also went and stood at
some distance from them, as they
both were standing by the Jordan.
8Then Elijah took his mantle and
rolled it up and struck the water; the
water was parted to the one side and
to the other, and the two of them
crossed on dry ground.

continued

[9]When they had crossed, Elijah
said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do
for you before I am taken from you."
Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a
double share of your spirit." [10]He re-
sponded, "You have asked a hard
thing, yet if you see me as I am being
taken from you, it will be granted you;
if not, it will not." [11]As they continued
walking and talking, a chariot of fire
and horses of fire separated the two of
them, and Elijah ascended in a whirl-
wind into heaven. [12]Elisha kept watch-
ing and crying out, "Father, father!
The chariots of Israel and its horse-
men!" But when he could no longer
see him, he grasped his own clothes
and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm — Psalm 50:1-6; refrain, Ps. 50:2



The mighty one, God the | LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun | to its setting.
[2]Out of Zion, perfect | in its beauty,
God shines | forth in glory. R
[3]Our God will come and will | not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a | raging storm.
[4]God calls the heavens and the earth | from above
to witness the judgment | of the people.
[5]"Gather before me my | loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed | it with sacrifice."
[6]The heavens declare the rightness | of God's cause,
for it is God | who is judge. R

Second Reading — 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The spotlight of Christian ministry is not on the people who carry out ministry but on the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as God made light shine at creation, God makes the light of Jesus Christ shine in our lives through Christian ministry.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled
to those who are perishing. [4]In their
case the god of this world has blinded
the minds of the unbelievers, to keep
them from seeing clearly the light of
the gospel of the glory of Christ, who
is the image of God. [5]For we do not
proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus
Christ as Lord and ourselves as your
slaves for Jesus's sake. [6]For it is the God
who said, "Light will shine out of dark-
ness," who has shone in our hearts to
give the light of the knowledge of the
glory of God in the face of Christ.

Gospel — Mark 9:2-9

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

Six days later, Jesus took with him
Peter and James and John and led
them up a high mountain apart, by
themselves. And he was transfigured
before them, [3]and his clothes became
dazzling bright, such as no one on
earth could brighten them. [4]And there
appeared to them Elijah with Moses,
who were talking with Jesus. [5]Then
Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good
for us to be here; let us set up three
tents: one for you, one for Moses, and
one for Elijah." [6]He did not know what
to say, for they were terrified. [7]Then a
cloud overshadowed them, and from
the cloud there came a voice, "This is
my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"
[8]Suddenly when they looked around,
they saw no one with them any more,
but only Jesus.

[9]As they were coming down the
mountain, he ordered them to tell no
one about what they had seen, until
after the Son of Man had risen from
the dead.