



# Celebrate

Sunday, July 13, 2025  
5th Sunday after Pentecost

*To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.*

## Prayer of the Day

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O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

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*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.*

The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, <sup>10</sup>when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

<sup>11</sup>Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup>It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" <sup>13</sup>Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" <sup>14</sup>No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

## Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10; refrain, Ps. 25:4



Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

To <sup>1</sup>you, O LORD,

I lift <sup>1</sup>up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be <sup>1</sup>put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph <sup>1</sup>over me.

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be <sup>1</sup>put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame <sup>1</sup>who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Show me your <sup>1</sup>ways, O LORD,  
and teach <sup>1</sup>me your paths. **R**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your <sup>1</sup>truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all <sup>1</sup>the day long.

<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compas- <sup>1</sup>sion and love,  
for they are from <sup>1</sup>everlasting.

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and <sup>1</sup>my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your good- <sup>1</sup>ness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and up- <sup>1</sup>right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners <sup>1</sup>in your way.

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- <sup>1</sup>ly in justice  
and teach the low- <sup>1</sup>ly your way.

<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast <sup>1</sup>love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your <sup>1</sup>testimonies. **R**

*The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup>To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup>In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup>for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup>because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup>This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, <sup>8</sup>and

he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup>May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## Gospel

## Luke 10:25-37

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup>He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup>He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

<sup>29</sup>But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw

him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' <sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" <sup>37</sup>He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

## Prayers of Intercession

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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

Saving God, awaken your church to your truth as it follows your path of love. Encourage pastors, deacons, teachers, and seminarians, and lead them as they seek to learn your ways. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Prosper the harvests of fruit-bearing bushes, trees, and plants. Uphold farmers and farm workers as they labor through summer days, and bring relief to lands that are parched with heat. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Instill in leaders of the world a strong love for their neighbors. Compel them to govern with equity and to give aid and protection to people who are vulnerable, especially strangers, migrants, and asylum seekers. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 25:11-20. **Tuesday** Proverbs 19:1-17. **Wednesday** Ecclesiastes 9:13-18. **Thursday** (commemoration of Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, 1566) Psalm 15. **Friday** Ephesians 3:14-21. **Saturday** Genesis 14:1-16. **6th Sunday after Pentecost** Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42.

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