

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Giver of gifts, you form each member of the church to serve. Inspire us to boldly use gifts of welcome and healing, service and teaching, leading and preaching, for the sake of your work in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Refuge of creatures, you place all the living under the shadow of your wings. Lead us in ways that tend to the needs of wild and domestic animals, creatures threatened by extinction, and the environment we share. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Voice of the oppressed, you call prophets throughout time. We remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a voice for racial and economic justice and for peace. Guide our nation in continuing to heed your prophetic call. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 145. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Agnes, martyr, c. 304) 1 Corinthians 1:3-17. **Wednesday** Luke 5:33-39. **Thursday** Psalm 19. **Friday** Romans 12:1-8. **Saturday** (Conversion of Paul, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends) Galatians 1:11-24. **Third Sunday after Epiphany** (commemoration of Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries) Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21.

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# Celebrate

Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 19, 2025

*The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.*

## Prayer of the Day

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 62:1-5

*The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.*

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not  
rest,  
until her vindication shines out like  
the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning  
torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your  
vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new  
name  
that the mouth of the LORD will  
give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in  
the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand  
of your God.

<sup>4</sup>You shall no more be termed  
Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be  
termed Desolate;  
but you shall be called My Delight Is  
in Her,  
and your land Married;  
for the LORD delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.  
<sup>5</sup>For as a young man marries a  
young woman,  
so shall your builder marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over  
the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over  
you.

