**Saturday, August 23 & Sunday, August 24, 2025**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. **O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14**

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 103:1-13** (read responsively)

**1**Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**2Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—**

**3**who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**4who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

**5**who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

**6The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

**7**He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

**8The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**9**He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

**10He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

**11**For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him

**12as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

**13**As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

**Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29**

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

**Prayers of Intercession – 8/23 & 8/24/2025**

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

*A brief silence.*

You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders (*leaders may be named*) as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness (*especially*…*and all other people or concerns we now name aloud on our lips or in the silence of our hearts*). Manifest your healing presence in their midst. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With (*Bartholomew and*) all your apostles, prophets, and saints, we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God’s presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**Amen.**