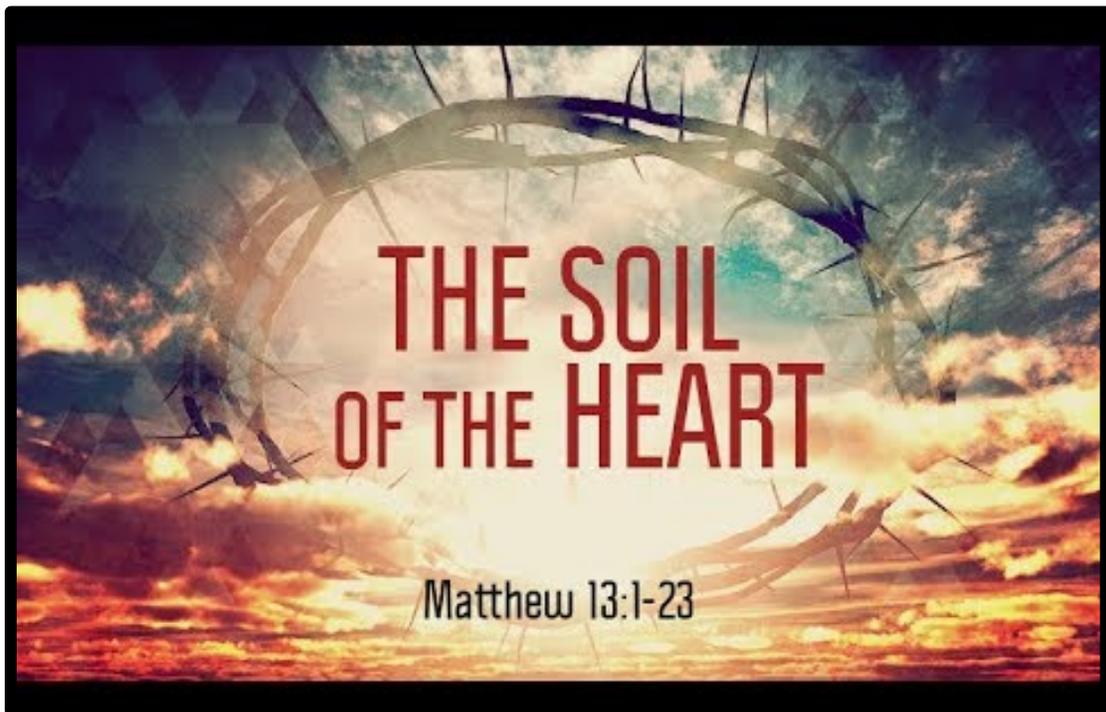


St. Paul's Episcopal Church

*We are called to gather around the sacred story and table of Christ
where all are invited to be fed and everyone's story matters.*

*"All Guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ."
The Rule of St. Benedict*



SIXTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST – PROPER 10
July 13, 2020 – 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(Please be mindful to keep your microphones muted during responses if possible.)

Prelude: *Allegretto* G. F. Händel Kathleen Johnson, Organist

Priest Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Priest
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Priest
Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One

People **Have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

A Reading (Lesson) From the Prophet Isaiah (55:10-13)

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God**

(Psalm to be read responsively breaking at the asterisk. Please mute your microphone.)

Psalm 65: 1-8, 9-14

- 1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; *
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- 2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, *
because of their transgressions.
- 3 Our sins are stronger than we are, *
but you will blot them out.
- 4 Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there! *
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.
- 5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation, *
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.
- 6 You make fast the mountains by your power; *
they are girded about with might.
- 7 You still the roaring of the seas, *
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.
- 8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; *
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.
- 9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.
- 10 You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.
- 11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
- 12 You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.
- 14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.

The Second Lesson

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (Romans 8:1-11)

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Barbara A.T. Wilson

The people say together—(Please mute your microphone)

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Reader 1 Brothers and sisters, Jesus was crucified in faithfulness to the cause of love and justice that all might be reconciled in peace. Let us pray that through the Cross of Christ his example may be realized in our world and our lives.

Silence

Reader 2 As Jesus was lifted high upon the cross of self-sacrifice that he might draw the whole world to himself, may we take up our cross and follow him in pursuit of the work of reconciliation in the world.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected, that their cries for daily bread and our care and concern may inspire works of mercy among us to whom much has been given. We pray also for Congregations in the Rockford Deanery: Grace in Sterling; Christ Church in Streator; St. Peter in Sycamore; and the Companion Dioceses of SE Mexico and Renk: La Ascención in Veracruz; St. John in Melut

Silence

Reader 2 Jesus calls us to offer food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted. May God's Spirit so move our hearts; that, following in the steps of Jesus, we may give of ourselves in the service of others until poverty and hunger cease in all the world.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 Let us pray for an end to the divisions and inequalities that scar creation, particularly the barriers to freedom faced by God's children throughout the world because of gender, sexual orientation, race, class, or creed; that all may have equality in pursuit of the blessings of creation.

Silence

Reader 2 O God, in whom there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free: unite the wills of all peoples that the walls which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; so that all may live together in justice and peace.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 Let us pray for an end to pandemic disease, particularly the scourge of COVID-19; that the plague of death may no longer fuel poverty, destabilize nations, and inhibit reconciliation and restoration throughout the world.

Silence

Reader 2 O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of the suffering: Grant your saving health to all who are afflicted by disease or other harm. Bless the labors of all who minister to the sick and unite the wills of all peoples to seek an end to the diseases of our age; that our brokenness may be turned to health and sorrow to joy. We pray especially for Gail, Puz, Toni, Dorothy, Margaret, David, Ed, Colleen, Lisa, Neil, Clark, Edward Stephen, Jubilee, Tasha, Malachi, Damien, Rosemarie, Bryce, Jim, Jan, Connie, Donald, and Sarah Woodcock.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 Let us pray for an end to the desecration of God's creation that we might find balance and the ability to share this good earth and its waters with all of God's creatures.

Silence

Reader 2 Almighty God, you created the world and gave it into our care: Inspire us with wisdom to share the riches of creation that all may be empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 Let us pray for the departed, especially our sisters and brothers who have died as a result of poverty, hunger, disease, violence, or hardness of the human heart.

Silence

Reader 2 Almighty God, through the resurrection of Jesus, you revealed that death is never the last word. We commend to your mercy all who have died as a result of the brokenness of our world; and we pray that all may share in the joy of your heavenly reign.

God, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Reader 1 All are invited to offer petitions, intercessions, and thanksgivings, ending with, "God, in your mercy," to which the community will respond, "Hear our prayer."

The Concluding Collect

Reader 2 Eternal God, in your kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered together and reconciled under the banner of your love and justice.

People **Amen.**

Confession

Priest Let us confess our sins to God.

In unison

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. **Amen.**

The Peace

Priest Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

(Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.)

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

Choral Anthem: *God Be In My Head* John Rutter The St. Paul's Adult/Youth Choir

God be in my head and in my understanding.

God be in my eyes and in my looking.

God be in my mouth and in my speaking.

God be in my heart, and in my thinking.

God be at my end, and at my departing.

(Please unmute your microphone for the Lord's Prayer said together.)

Priest

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

May God bless you with discontent with easy answers, half-truths, superficial relationships, so that you will live from deep within your heart.

Amen.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, abuse, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equality, and peace.

Amen.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and to change their pain to joy.

Amen.

May God bless you with the foolishness to think you can make a difference in this world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

Amen.

And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, and Companion on the Way be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Announcements for the Good of the Order

Birthday

God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Wedding Anniversary

Gracious Creator: You blessed the marriage of two people with your love years ago. Amid the joys and struggles of their life you have preserved and strengthened the covenant between them; bless and renew that covenant now, increase your love in them, and strengthen their bond of peace, so that surrounded by their children, family and friends, they may always rejoice in the gift of their love for one another and for your enduring love that blesses their days together. This we ask through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Travel

O God, whose beauty and intention fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ!
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Sonatina Opus 36, No. 3* Muzio Hannah Buckle, Pianist

Join us for Coffee Chat on Zoom after the 10:30 service

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church
DeKalb, Illinois, Diocese of Chicago
Member of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
900 Normal Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115
Parish Office: 815-756-4888
Email: parishoffice@stpaulsdekalb.org
Website: <http://www.stpaulsdekalb.org>

The Reverend Barbara A. T. Wilson, Rector;

Email: revbarbara@stpaulsdekalb.org
Lynne Jacobson, MDiv, Pastoral Assistant
Susan King – Administrative Assistant
Lorraine Langer, Director of Music,
Hannah Buckle, Assistant Director of Music
Kathleen Johnson, Organist.
Rick Johns, Treasurer.
Jocelyn Prall - Sacristan
Julie Rogers, Brittany Altepeter, Karyn Perkins, Nursery Attendants

Our Wardens and Vestry

Maureen Gerrity, Senior Warden, Gretchen Schlabach, Junior Warden
Rebecca Smith, Clerk, Terry Dickow, Donna de Oliveira,
Bill Cummings, Jacob Maas

Announcements

Join us for A Series of Occasions to Connect!

Grace and Peace to you all in this strange time of "sheltering at home" and being compelled for the sake of one another's health and well-being to avoid gathering for worship. We can make good use of this time by sanctifying it and offering it, and ourselves, souls and bodies, to God.

Let's consider this time as a true Sabbath from our usual busy-ness a time to listen and look for God's Presence here. Our weekly series on our website includes a Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom), Gospel reflections and more.

The Liturgy of the Word Service will be on Zoom at 8 AM and at 10:30 AM.

The bulletin will be the same for both services and a Zoom coffee hour will take place after the 10:30 service.

St. Paul's: Share Work plan for church ground care

Several years ago when Dick Downen was on the vestry, he came up with a Share Work plan to care for the church grounds. Several folks adopted a bush or two or an area of plants and Betsy Pool made those folks name plates on stones by their respective bushes. Bill and I have continued to care for our adopted bushes twice a year since the plan was set in motion. Is there anyone else caring for particular bushes so we don't reassign them? Are folks interested in helping? Please email **Susan King or Jennie C.** which area interests you. You can team with someone or ask for an area to be split up. After everyone has a chance, a final plan will be shared. Thank you!! parishoffice@stpaulsdekalb.org

Suggestions: Mark your calendars twice per year to check your adopted bushes. Keep your bushes trimmed and weeded where needed. You may want to trim bushes away from touching the church. If you want to donate mulch for your area or lay down gardener-cloth, feel free.

Tools: Trimmers (electrical or manual); Rake. Please make arrangements if you need to borrow tools or use your own.

Goal: Ownership for everyone wanting to be involved and saving on expenses.

Expenses: None. This plan is not intended to need any funding.

Book Studies

Join our book study on Zoom, on Tuesdays, @5 PM--on the recent book by Karen Armstrong, *The Lost Art of Scripture: Rescuing the Sacred Texts*.

Here is what Amazon says about the book: "Today the Quran is used by some to justify war and acts of terrorism, the Torah to deny Palestinians the right to live in the Land of Israel, and the Bible to condemn homosexuality and contraception. The significance of scripture may not be immediately obvious in our secular world, but its misunderstanding is perhaps the root cause of many of today's controversies."

"In this timely and important book, one of the most trusted and admired writers on the world of faith examines the meaning of scripture. The sacred texts have been co-opted by fundamentalists, who insist that they must be taken literally, and by others who interpret scripture to bolster their own prejudices. These texts are seen to prescribe ethical norms and codes of behavior that are divinely ordained: they are believed to contain eternal truths. But as Karen Armstrong shows in this chronicle of the development and significance of major religions, such a narrow, peculiar reading of scripture is a relatively recent, modern phenomenon. For most of their history, the world's religious traditions have regarded these texts as tools that enable the individual to connect with the divine, to experience a different level of consciousness, and to help them engage with the world in more meaningful and compassionate ways."

"At a time of intolerance and mutual incomprehension, *The Lost Art of Scripture* shines fresh light on the world's major religions to help us build bridges between faiths and rediscover a creative and spiritual engagement with holy texts."

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wonder if anyone would like to join me in another book study, this one titled, *How to be an Antiracist*, by Ibram X. Kendi. Here's a review:

"With groundbreaking vision and revelatory clarity of purpose, Kendi argues that to reject racism is insufficient--rather, one must practice antiracism, which demands 'persistent self-awareness, constant self-criticism, and regular self-examination.' Racism, as Kendi illuminates in these pages, is not simply a matter of hatred and ignorance; rather, it's a vicious structural force rooted at the bedrock of American society, infecting everything from community policing to housing policy. Pick up this book for a necessary lesson in unlearning everything you think you know about racism, as well as an essential education in how each and every one of us can play an active role in building the just and equitable world we want to live in."

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in Christ, Barbara+

Evenings of Taize

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope this note finds you well and that you are discovering new and creative ways to cope with staying at home while keeping yourself and others safe.

As wonderful as it is to gather together to worship through prayer and song please remember that as members of the Body of Christ, even when we are not together, we are still one body and each of us is precious in God's sight. I encourage you to add the music of Taize to your prayer life and routines in an intentional way. If you haven't already created a special space in your home for prayer may I suggest that you do? Light a candle, burn incense, read poetry, listen to the sounds of nature, breathe deeply and allow yourself to fall into, and meditate with, the simple songs of Taize.

We will be sure to let you know when we resume our evening services.

In the meanwhile, please pray for me as I pray for you.

God's Peace to you and to those in your loving care,
Lynne Jacobson, MDiv., Liturgist/Pastoral Assistant

Discretionary Fund Collection and Food Pantry Giving

Donations to the Rector's Discretionary Fund can be mailed to St. Paul's or can be sent using Realm. The Salvation Army Food Pantry has asked for financial help only during this time and you can check on their website on how to send help at

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/dekalb/>

For more information about St. Paul's

Go to our website, www.stpaulsdekalb.org - to hear the Sermons, Announcements, Schedules, Mars Hill Newsletter, etc. The Church of St. Paul is on Facebook and Twitter! Like our page and sign up to follow us to get the latest updates on what's going on!

St. Paul's is an affirming and inclusive Christian community!

Striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender expression, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we! All are welcome, no exceptions!

CITATIONS

Service - Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer for on-line use by the Congregation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, DeKalb, Illinois

<https://www.bcponline.org/>

<http://www.lectionarypage.net/>

<https://episcopalchicago.org/>

<http://www.stpaulsdekalb.org/>

mthrbarbara@gmail.com

Prayers of the People. - Adapted from A Bidding Prayer for An End to Global Poverty and Instability, based on the UN Millennium Development Goals; provided by The Episcopal Church + Office of Government Relations.

Cover - *Soil of the Heart*, www.calvaryhillsboro.org

Household Prayer: Morning

*God of goodness and growth, let your love be made real in me this day.
Soften the hardened places of my heart and crowd out any corners of greed or anxiety.
Make me be fruitful in thought, word, and deed. Amen.*

Household Prayer: Evening

*Loving God, I am grateful that you are steadfast in forgiving
my failures and transgressions,
that I may sojourn in the temple of your rest
and awaken again to serve your world. Amen.*

A word about the Household Prayers:

These prayers are printed on a page of their own so that you can tear them out and use them in your devotions at home. These prayers come from an anthology titled *Feasting on the Word*, that includes several liturgies for services. The prayers reflect the readings of the week, including special feast days.