

## Prayers of the Day

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Spirit, we believe that by our own efforts we cannot believe. But with your power, we can have true faith in our heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us this faith always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, you created the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. You have made us members of it through baptism. Guide the whole church on earth, our denomination the ELCA, and our congregation St. John to do all things according to your will. Teach us to see things the way you see them, to obey your law, and to make our decisions based on your Holy Scriptures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, Jesus our risen Lord breathed upon the disciples, and they received you. They received you so that they could forgive sins. Help us believe the word of forgiveness that we hear in church, knowing that it comes from you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, heal all those who are sick, protect those in danger, and comfort those who mourn (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, you do not recognize any boundary between earth and heaven. You keep us connected to the whole communion of saints that lives in heaven. Make us holy, too, so that we may be saints along with them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# TODAY'S LESSONS

## The Creed: Third Article

**Prayer of the Day:** O Holy Spirit, you have brought us here today. You give us faith in our heavenly Father who sent his only Son to die for us. Set our hearts on fire with love for you and for all your people on this earth. This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## A reading from Isaiah:

God said: People of Israel, I have chosen you as my servant. I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born. Israel, don't be terrified! You are my chosen servant, my very favorite. I will bless the thirsty land by sending streams of water; I will bless your descendants by giving them my Spirit. They will spring up like grass or like willow trees near flowing streams. They will worship me and become my people.

## Psalm 51:

You are kind, God! Please have pity on me.

You are always merciful! Please wipe away my sins.

**Wash me clean from all of my sin and guilt.**

I know about my sins, and I cannot forget my terrible guilt.

**You are really the one I have sinned against;**

**I have disobeyed you and have done wrong.**

**So it is right and fair for you to correct and punish me.**

I have sinned and done wrong since the day I was born.

**But you want complete honesty, so teach me true wisdom.**

Wash me with hyssop until I am clean and whiter than snow.

**Let me be happy and joyful!**

**You crushed my bones, now let them celebrate.**

Turn your eyes from my sin and cover my guilt.

**Create pure thoughts in me and make me faithful again.**

Don't chase me away from you

or take your Holy Spirit away from me.

**Make me as happy as you did when you saved me;**

**make me want to obey!**

I will teach sinners your Law, and they will return to you.

**Keep me from any deadly sin. Only you can save me!**

**Then I will shout and sing about your power to save.**

Help me to speak, and I will praise you, Lord.

**Offerings and sacrifices are not what you want.**

The way to please you is to feel sorrow deep in our hearts.

This is the kind of sacrifice you won't refuse.

### **A reading from Acts:**

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak. Peter stood with the eleven apostles and spoke in a loud and clear voice to the crowd: "Friends and everyone else living in Jerusalem, listen carefully to what I have to say! This is what God had the prophet Joel say. 'When the last days come, I will give my Spirit to everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams. In those days I will give my Spirit to my servants, both men and women, and they will prophesy. I will work miracles in the sky above and wonders on the earth below. There will be blood and fire and clouds of smoke. The

sun will turn dark, and the moon will be as red as blood before the great and wonderful day of the Lord appears. Then the Lord will save everyone who asks for his help.'"

### **The Holy Gospel according to St. John:**

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy. After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."