

Prepare Ye

Week 2: Pray

Order of Service

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me. Psalm 69:13

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C God promises to be with us and keep us wherever we go.

P He will not leave us until he has done what he has promised.

C Surely the Lord is in this place!

P This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

C For God sent John the Baptist—

P To turn the hearts of parents to their children.

C To make ready a people prepared!

Hymn ... Once He Came In Blessing (LSB 333)

Confession and Absolution

P Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry—

C Too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

P Forgive what our lips tremble to name.

C What our hearts can no longer bear.

P And what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

C As parents, we have not fully loved our children.

P As children, we have not fully loved our parents.

C Set us free from a past that we cannot change.

P Open to us a future where we can be changed.

C And grant us grace to grow more and more in the image and likeness of Jesus. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

P Surely the Lord is in this place as the God of love and kindness who forgives you, frees you, heals you, strengthens you and raises you up to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. He also sends his Holy Spirit to turn the hearts of parents to their children.

C To make ready a people prepared!

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading ... Genesis 28:10-17

Epistle Reading ... 1 Timothy 2:1-6

Gospel Reading ... Luke 1:5-25

Hymn ... O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357)

Sermon

Prayers

P St. Paul writes, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Compassionate Father, today we bring before you those with whom we share the closest relationships—members of our families. How we long for you to be gracious on behalf of our children, our parents, our siblings and our extended families. We believe that you will—

C Turn the hearts of parents to their children.

P Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon the people we cherish. For our children,

siblings and parents who don't know you, bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus. For our family members who are living destructive lives, save them from themselves. In the meandering of their madness, bring the grandeur of your goodness. We believe that you will—

C Turn the hearts of children to their parents.

P Tender Father, for family members who are having failing health, financial stress, emotional stress or mental illness, marital meltdown or relational disconnect, pour forth your life-giving Spirit. Where there is weariness, bring your presence; where there is hopelessness, bring encouragement; where there is despair, be a mighty and merciful God. We believe that you will—

C Turn the hearts of children to their parents.

P To make ready a people prepared. We pray in the matchless and merciful name of Jesus.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C God heard Zechariah's prayer!

P His wife Elizabeth bore a son named John.

C Who turns the children of Israel to the Lord their God,

P And goes before Jesus in the spirit and power of Elijah.

C To turn the hearts of the parents to the children to make ready a people prepared!

Hymn ...God Loves Me Dearly (LSB 392)