

Sunday Prayers.10.5.2025  
(Adapted from Rev. Nadia Bolz's Prayers)

Gathered in this majestic, broken, beautiful, yet unfinished world -Let us pray for the church, which is itself unfinished. And let us pray for this unfinished day. And let us pray also for each other - for we who, till the day we complete our baptismal journey, are also ever unfinished.  
Saying: Lord in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Holy God, Who makes all things new,  
We pray for your whole church – for those who call upon your name in every language and every manner. If agreement in doctrine eludes us, may our shared and desperate need for your mercy unite us. Knit us together with strands of your love, make us one, and help us to always take you more seriously than we take ourselves.  
Lord in your mercy,  
People: Hear our prayer.

We pray especially today for Rev. Yahiel Curry, our new Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, that you might give him thick skin and a soft heart. Protect him from other people's insecurities, Lord. We ask also that you strengthen him through prayer, his marriage, his friendships, and his health. And even when his work feels unfinished, may you grant him the humility to always stop and rest.  
Lord in your mercy,  
People: Hear our prayer.

We pray for your blessing upon this community —this holy living room, this sign of your sacred presence in this village. May it be a place where the powerful are humbled, the lowly lifted, the hungry fed, the lonely befriended, and where both the sorrowful and the joyous are shielded. For the quilters...and the warmth of the quilts they have made and shared with the families of our village in need....  
Lord in your mercy,  
People: Hear our prayer.

We pray for leaders of nations, that they may know that only you are God and act accordingly. We pray for peace that isn't just the absence of gunfire but the presence of dignity, and for justice that doesn't wait for the next election cycle.  
Lord in your mercy,  
People: Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer - and also for those who love them. For the sick and the dying, for the addicted and the incarcerated, for those whose pain is visible and those whose wounds are carefully hidden. We name them before you now, out loud or in our hearts...Comfort them, Lord.  
Lord in your mercy,  
People: Hear our prayer.

And we remember those who have died —may their faults be forgiven and their strengths be borrowed.  
Lord in your mercy,  
People: Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you have promised to be with us and today we are claiming that promise as our own as we drop these prayers at your feet. Grant us wisdom. Grant us courage. For the facing of this hour, and the living of these days, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal. Through Jesus Christ, the friend of sinners we pray,

People: Amen.