

Sunday Prayers.5.17.2026

God of Grace...you command us...not invite or encourage...or suggest...but rather require us to love one another as you have loved us. It seems easy. It seems hard, And yet, there are so many ways to love. Music is one of them. The music we make, the music we hear, the music we listen to as we drive in our cars or work out at the gym, the music of the people in this place —it's all magical...in its voice of love. Thank you for all the Peace musicians that share their talent in sacred ways for the connecting of us all. Their offering is sacred and holy. Thank you. Also, as we move to summer, we tend to hear outdoor music—whether it is the neighbor strumming his guitar on his back deck, or the kid down the street who plays his music loud enough that we hope we love it, or as we dance at a wedding, or attend a concert or two..or more...help us pay attention to the love. You are on the loose among us...and so is your love... right along side the magic of music. Thank you for that. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy Healer, so many among us have some sort of health issue...or mental health concerns... or the pain of brokenness in the world. We carry so much within our bodies that needs tending and mending and healing. Be with us...especially the ones suffering with hard physical and mental health challenges. Bring relief. Bring hope. Bring renewed zest for living. Bring healing in all the ways it is available. Whatever else the people among us need to heal and be whole, please tend it with mercy. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer....

God of Resurrection, you bring life out of death...not just when this world is done with us or someone we love...but now...here...in the midst of all that is. You save us from the graves we dig ourselves with habits that are not life-giving, you save us from our own shame and guilt that leads us to be diminished as humans...you save us from destroying other lives when you remind us of your command to love one another. Your spirit moves among us and renews us with opportunities to embrace life...the new life that you create around us each day. We have never experienced this minute before...so help us in the minutes of this day...to be renewed with your holy gift of breath and hope. For those who are suffering the end of this worldly life for people they know and love...and are struggling to live with out, we ask that you hold them tightly enough to experience the rhythmic pulse of your resurrection reality. We all need it...but especially we pray this day for....

- *Justin and Lisa Bright and family on the death of Justin's uncle.*
- *John and Sarah Samuelson and family on the death of their family member, Mitchell.*

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Creator God, you give us everything we need for living—food, shelter, a soft pillow to rest our heads and this and that to do each day. Help us remember that we are part of a larger creation meant to nourish and sustain all living creatures. Humans matter—all of them—everywhere as well as all the other creatures and plants. Help each of us—and our collective community—be a center of critical thinking and critical action for preserving this place you have given us to live and call home. Let us not think of water...or air...or woods...or soil to be a commodity—but more as a tool to help us all live and move, have a being and serve the needs of others and future generation. We need your help to rethink the way we live. Help us make good, life sustaining decisions for the benefit of all. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer...

The leadership of the world is easily coerced by greed and unmitigated power. Even the best thinkers and gifted strategists can find themselves in a state of drunkenness by the overindulgence in opportunities. Help those who have been given the responsibility to lead—to lead with grace and integrity. Help any hearts that have been hardened by the lust of control, to be softened with reason and humility. Allow the voices of real people to be heard and

cherished, allow the faces of all humanity to be seen and valued, allow authentic love to lead us to a new, radical reality that makes space for every human to have what they need to become the people you have created us all to be. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer....

Lord of Life, Last night, millions of Mamas and Papas all over the world tucked their little ones in with a snuggle and a word of assuring love. Last night, millions of women and men—old and young—were embraced by the safety of another human...in a hug...in a conversation...in a moment of weariness as they fell into bed. Last night, love was greater than hate all over the world. It didn't make the news...because it is the norm. Help us remember that your love is on the loose everywhere we live, everywhere we go, everywhere two or three of us gather together and acknowledge your loving presence in the community among us. Help us see it. Help us be it. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer....

Into your hands, Gracious God we commend all for whom we pray. Amen.