

Sunday Prayers 7.5.2026

Gracious God, yesterday we celebrated the 4th of July—not just any 4th...but the 250th birthday of our country. Even in the midst of some challenging times across our nation, there were fireworks and flags, picnics and parades, and all of the traditional parts of our red, white and blue celebration. We say that we are the United States. We pledge allegiance to the flag...and repeat that we are one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. That is our hope. That is our dream. That is our story. For many of us, it is consistent with your commandment to love one another as you have loved us. Right now, the people of our nation are struggling. There is a lot of concern for the future. So...please guide us forward. Fuel us with faith and hope and love. Grant us grace and mercy in our future. We especially remember all of the sons and daughters serving in our military—especially those in the Middle East. We pray this day for Logan Beem, Noah Whippler, Riandro Vogt and all who serve alongside them. Keep them safe, hold them with mercy. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy One, health is on most of our minds a lot of the time. We try to create meals that are filled with protein, vegetables, and fruits with minimal processed sugars and red meats. We try to reduce salt and fat and carbs. Sometimes we feel guilty for craving chips...or a juicy burger... And of course, there are fresh fried cheese curds...and dessert. We walk. We run. We bike. We try to burn calories with movement. It is to improve our lives and health...and well being. Remind us, that even if we do it all...and do it well...and do it most of the time, it does not mean we will be immune from disease or illness. Remind us that even in the diseases and illnesses... of our bodies or minds or spirits, you are with us always...no matter when, where or why...with sighs too deep for words. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sometimes, God of Good News, the headlines of national and global news, overwhelm our ears, our eyes and our senses. We become flooded with a 24/7 cycle of pain and power issues. This week was no different. The news was troubling as it usually is. And yet, millions of Americans of all colors, all genders, all stereotypes tucked their children in last night and told them they were precious and loved. Remind us that loving others is our goal. That it is your good news. That it is always the best news possible. Help us love...always...everyone. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Creation, You know the needs of our world. Help us be cognizant of the way we value creation. Help us mitigate the issues we are facing as we learn about the ways our culture impacts our planet. Help us change our focus, our habits, our policies as we navigate the immediate and long term prospects for a healthy future. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Resurrection, help us deal with the things that bring a sense of death to our lives. Sometimes it is real death with the loss of people we love. Sometimes it is metaphoric death where a dream dies, a job ends, a relationship fizzles. Whatever grief people are experiencing today, please remind them of your life giving power—and that it always has the last word. Always.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy and believing in your promises. Amen.