

Sunday Prayers 7.26.2026

We pray for the world...and all of creation...

Holy God, you teach us to pray...not because you demand it of us, but because prayer allows us to experience being nearer to you. It is an intimate and holy experience. It can be individual or communal. It can be spoken aloud, silently...or shared in deep wordless sighs. Always, it is a way for us to explore our relationship with you in ways that invite our own growth. Please continue helping us learn how to pray. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of us All, we need tenderness and mercy in our world...and especially right now in the greater Madison community. Corey Ruiz was killed on Williamson Street on Wednesday. The facts are still under investigation....but the pain has exploded among the people of Dane County...and events are being cancelled for the protection of public safety. The issues are complex. The pain, deep. Allow us all the space to breathe, to think, to remember, to grieve, to look forward with mercy, patience, and intellect. Help us to value all human life in ways that allow it to be lived well. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, in this sabbath season we call summer, help us take some extra time to enjoy the gifts of your earth—the smell of basil growing in the garden, the taste of berries fresh from the source, the sweet flavor of tomatoes ripe from the vine, a bouquet of field flowers adorning a simple table, corn on the cob with butter from our local dairies, watermelon that drips down our chins. There is so much goodness in the simple things around us. Help us remember that in this season of produce, that you are working in our midst in so many subtle and profound ways. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, we pray for the people in need of healing—whatever the healing need might be. Some need physical healing. Some need relational healing. Some need healing the old wounds that keep surfacing in their lives. Whatever the need, please tend it with mercy, compassion and love. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Easter, resurrection remains illusive in so many ways and real in so many others. For those who are grieving, help them understand that be-

cause of you, death no longer defines life and life itself has been redefined. Help us live into that truth...as we grieve those we love. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy One, You call us by name and claim us as your very own. Help us understand that such a promise means that we are precious and irreplaceable in your eyes...in your world. We all have a reason for being here...a means of loving ourselves and others...something to share out of the goodness you have created us to be and become. Help us be kind. Help us tend the people we see with mercy. Help us see more than what originally appears to be the story. Help us do these things—not only with strangers and acquaintances, but also with the people who share our homes, our names, and our neighborhoods. May we also find a soft, sensible way of dealing with our own inadequacies...and frailties. Love us boldly. Tend us with patience. Hold us gently. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Creation, may we honor all that you have given us. May we interact with all of creation in ways that preserve the well being of the water, land, forests and creatures—every living thing that makes all of creation work. Help us to live in ways that sustain and improve this planet. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of the World, help us to see the love that is on the loose among us. Help us to cherish the love that lives in our lives...the love that we receive...the love that we give...your love that bends things to justice and truth, peace and goodness, hope and possibility. We need that right now. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, Gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray. Guide us with mercy. Grant us grace for the journey. Amen.