

Sunday Prayers.8.16.2026

Gracious God, Thank you for showing us your humanness. Thank you for transcending it in relationship to the woman begging for healing for her daughter. We see what happened in that story. We can imagine how our own humanness can get in the way of loving our neighbors and doing the work needed to heal us all. Allow us to practice your love and transcend our cultural brokenness to make sure that all of humanity can experience a more life affirming reality in the here and now world that we share. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy Creator, we have reached the back to school days of our summer. Supplies are being purchased. Classrooms are being readied for students to return. Teachers are preparing for a fresh year of students who each have unique personalities and quirks, needs and strengths, learning styles and growing edges. Allow these days of preparation for a new season of intentional learning to be filled and fueled with a sense of compassion, hope and possibility. Infuse all who are a part of this seasonal transition with the peace and purpose they each need to embrace the year to come. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Creator God, the world is warming. Wildfires are exploding in multiple parts of our world. Floods happen, too. Storms with severe consequences bring mass wreckage and havoc to lots of places each week. We hear it is us. We hear it is our sometimes intentional...and often unintentional habits that are changing the climate. We have trouble understanding it, believing it, and changing the habits that cause it. Please, please, please, move us with mercy to change what needs changing for creation to thrive...and all of humanity, too. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy Healer, we do not like to think of our bodies, minds, or spirits as something that needs healing—but every single one of us is in need. We might not have a diagnosis that is challenging us today—but we know that the stresses of our world weigh on us. The news. The injustices. The harmful rhetoric. The greed. The imbalances that live among us—they cause us all harm. Heal us. Help us. Fix us and our world in the ways that only you are able. We need healing—and please also, heal the ones we know are suffering with particular needs this day. We pause for a moment to name those we know of...silently before you. (Pause) Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful Savior, we need saving. That is hard to say. We like to be independent and self sufficient. And yet, we know that is not really true. Save us from our disappointments. Save us from our broken dreams. Save us from our blind assumptions. Save us from our innate judgements of one another...and of ourselves. Save us from destruction. Save us from our fear of dying. Save us from whatever we need to be saved from this day. Guide us forward with grace, mercy, and love. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, Gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray...including the person on our left, the person on our right...and of course, ourselves...our church...and our greater community throughout the world. Amen.