

Sunday Prayers.9.27.2026

Gracious God, the seasons are changing. The light in our days is different now than it was a month ago. Some of us love these seasonal transitions and some of us grieve them. Whatever our stance on light and seasons, help us as we welcome a new segment of time and color to see the beauty of your creation, to acknowledge the creatures, their needs, and the needs of growing things to rest. Help us see the Sabbath of fall and winter as it meets us this year. Help us also to care for your creation in powerfully positive ways. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy One, today we pondered the question asked in Exodus, “Lord are you with us or not?” By people who were disgruntled and weary. We remember that you gave us Emmanuel...to dwell among us. And Jesus is still here, still speaking, and we, together are the body of Christ called to love the world. Help us be the people you have created us to be. Help us realize we may not be able to “fix” the world...but we can love it with all our might. And if we all do that, we change so much in such amazing positive, powerful ways. Empower us. We need you. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of Easter, remind us again of the nature of resurrection. As we watch leaves turn colors and leave trees, remind us that the buds will come again in a different season. As the landscape changes before our eyes, remind us daily of the ongoing cycle of death and resurrection that allows us to understand things we cannot fully realize from our earthly reality. There are people we have loved who have recently died...and learning to live with their quieted voices is hard—sometimes harder than we imagined. We especially pray for...

- Deb Nies and family on the death of her aunt, Sharon Krueger.
- Bryan, Janice, Hayden and Jacob Ellefson on the death of Bryan’s grandma, Randeem “Randi” Ellefson.
- Brian and Amy Dresen, Logan and Carissa on the death of Amy’s mom, Sandy Wahamaki.
- Anne and Troy Jastromski and family on the death of Anne’s dad, Richard Wiberg.
- And everyone who is grieving someone they miss today.

Please hold these people in love, and allow the rhythm of resurrection to turn their mourning into dancing. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, most of us, if not all of us, have been splashed with promise. Not just any promise—not a campaign promise to magically make our world work better—but the promise that wherever we are, you are with us—loving us, redeeming us, continually renewing us, restoring us, and calling us out of the deaths of our own realities to new life grounded in your vision for the world. It is the best vision—one where all people feel loved, have food and shelter and everything else they need to be whole. Today, Crew Christopher Bennett was splashed with that promise, and wow. WOW! WOW! WOW! It is an amazing gift of identity. Help us live into that watery cross that still sits on our brows reminding us who and whose we are. 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....

Whatever else we need right now, dear God, please grant it with grace and mercy, truth and love. Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray...including ourselves and our community of faith. Amen.