

Pastoral Prayer  
February 19, 2023

Merciful God,

So many people in so many places cry out for your mercy today. The suffering survivors of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the wounded and the grieving of Michigan State University, the storm-battered residents of New Zealand. We ourselves have watched the falling rain and the rising streams with concern, and we pray for our neighbors affected by washouts and closed roads. Hold these and countless others in your loving care, O God, and lead us to aid those who need our support. Bless us with the compassion and the wisdom to be your ministers of mercy.

Let your mercy be with us, O God, in our aches and sorrows and needs. Lend healing for our injuries and illnesses. Soothe us when sadness overtakes us. Renew us when our hopes seem to fade. Revive us when our energies falter, and there is still more before us to do. May each day close with the blessings of rest, and each day begin with the assurance of your constant love.

In rain or sun, you are our God. In success or failure, you are our Redeemer. In joy or in sorrow, you are our Savior. Through mystery, through hardship, through wonder, through renewal, through confusion, through clarity, we follow you, our Guide and Friend. You we worship, you we praise, you we thank.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.