

Pastoral Prayer
September 8, 2024

O God of Grace,

We are grateful that we can learn and grow, that we can change and renew, that we can repent and find your forgiveness, that we can follow your lead and do your work. We are grateful that sin, shame, and regret do not define us. We are grateful that your mercy defines us, and in your mercy, we can act mercifully.

We pray mercy for the afflicted people of the world. We pray for those overwhelmed by flood waters, typhoon winds, and other natural disasters. We pray for those left grieving or injured by shootings in schools, on highways, on city streets. We pray for those weeping as bombs fall or tanks roll. We pray for those whose homes are not safe places because of violence, poverty, or political oppression. We pray for those who, at day's end, have no place to call home.

We pray mercy for the sufferers of the world.

We pray mercy for ourselves, not just in our errors, but in our aches. We ask healing where our bodies or our minds or our spirits have suffered injury. We ask comfort for the missing faces in our lives. We ask hope in the midst of seemingly endless turmoil. We ask guidance because we frequently wonder which way we should go.

May Jesus' example and the Holy Spirit's presence show us the way, at least for the next turn, pick us up as we falter, and hold our hands and hearts in tender care.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.