

Pastoral Prayer
October 27, 2024

God of Mercy,

You have blessed us in the light of sun and moon, in the sweetness of falling rain, in the rising green of trees and plants, in the rolling ocean, in the sighing wind. We praise you for these blessings.

We praise you even more for the people you have created. We give thanks for our lives, and we give thanks for the lives of those around us. They have loved us. They have cared for us. They have journeyed with us our entire lives. We are not alone, and we are so grateful to them and to you for this precious gift.

Today we honor the memory of some who traveled with us but have found their way to you and your tender care, beyond our sight and touch. Thank you for them, O God. Thank you for their lives, their hearts, their specialness, their kindness. In them we have seen your mercy echoed. In them we have seen, as in a mirror, the grace of Jesus.

We have no fear for them, held securely in your care. We ask that you prepare a place for us, to join them as we complete our course in this world. We look forward to the tears and laughter of a reunion beyond time, even as we know we cannot even imagine it in its fulness.

In the meantime, O God, give us comfort and guidance, strength and forgiveness, and by your mercy, may we honor these saints with our lives.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.