

Pastoral Prayer  
November 24, 2024

God of Wonders,

Our first prayer in this week is thanks. Thank you for the Creation whose beauty and whose bounty we enjoy. Thank you for the love of other human beings and for the love you have shown us. Thank you especially for the gift of Jesus Christ, a monarch of truth, a bearer of grace. As we gather this week to give thanks with friends and family, or as we may sit down to a table of our own, we thank you, the source of all that is, for all that fills us in body, mind, and spirit.

We pray for peace in these difficult times. The wars rage on, and we struggle to see a purpose when all we can see are the effects: Tears. Destroyed homes. Graves. We keep praying for humans to see wisdom, and we know you answer prayer. We commit once more to be the answer to your prayer, and to show the leaders of warring nations that there is a better, truer way, a way of light, not thorns.

We ask your blessings for us so that we might testify to truth in this place, in this time. Sometimes that will take knowledge, and as we seek learning we ask your aid to discover it. Sometimes that will take wisdom, to know what to say, when to say it, and how to say it for others to hear. Sometimes that will take courage, because there are those who prefer the ways of thorns who will disregard the ways of light, or even strive to smother the light with thorns.

We ask your blessings for our challenges of health and grief and care. As we pray for and care for others, let your grace work in us to keep us moving in faith.

And as we pause this week before you, hear our prayers of thanks, and let the heavens see your smile.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.