

Pastoral Prayer  
January 18, 2026

Inviting God,

We human beings have a tendency to flurry about when we're distressed. Sometimes that means we don't know what we need, and that means we also don't know what to do. Settle us down. Bring our thoughts to the question, "What do we seek?" Help us to find it.

But sometimes, God, we know perfectly well what we need and what we seek. We don't know the way to find it or make it. Then, God, help us in the search. Guide us to the person or people who can help us, teach us, or work with us. In our seeking, may we find.

And sometimes, God, we know what we need, we know what we seek, and we also know we do not have the means and we cannot put them together. Sometimes the world is too much for our strength and resources, even when we gather together. Then, O God, give us the comfort and strength to endure what we pray is a short time. Then, O God, be with us as we change our lives so that we do not rely on what we lack. Then, O God, turn our gaze in a new direction, and lead us to something we had not known to seek.

Inviting God, help us invite others to this community of faith and to your deep love. Help us invite others to find the spiritual nourishment of your people and your Word. Help us to join with them in filling our spirits with your Holy Spirit.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.