

Pastoral Prayer

July 5, 2026

God of the ages,

To one who strides eternity, two hundred fifty years are less than an eyeblink. Even to we human beings, it is a short period to exist as a nation when compared to many others. Nevertheless we celebrate this anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. We pray that each year bring us closer to, and not further from, the ideals of personal freedom, evenhanded justice, and concern for the general welfare of citizens and non-citizens alike. Bless us, O God, with the wisdom and the courage to maintain the best of our history and to correct the worst.

We ask your mercy for those who struggle with their health, whether it be of body or of mind. We ask your grace for those who have ended their journey among us and have come to you; welcome them with love. We ask your comfort for those who mourn. We ask your guidance for those who must choose, that they – and we – may choose better than we have before.

Our days are filled both with joys and with sorrows. Give us healing when we suffer. Give us confidence when we falter. Give us forgiveness when we sin and repent. Give us joy when we succeed in our discipleship. Give us laughter to share. Give us hopes fulfilled. Give us love each and every day.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.