

Pastoral Prayer
October 11, 2026

Holy God,

We are well aware that we live in an imperfect world. We don't really know how to define perfection, and all too frequently use it to mean ourselves, and therefore anyone else is imperfect.

We know this does not work, O God.

We know because you have created people in all shapes and sizes, with abilities and disabilities. Some can do things others can't. Some have experiences others will never know. We pray our thanks, O God, that all of these are created in your image, that they are our siblings in the human family, that they are us.

We pray that we might find the grace and the justice that are yours, O God, to live as family, to welcome and to embrace, to encourage and to enjoy the quiet. We pray that men might cease to treat women as objects of conquest – we pray that we would cease to see any people, in any nation, or any group, as objects of conquest. We pray for the vision to understand our neighbors as you do.

Hold us in care, O God, for the imperfections of this world bring pain and loss. We pray in grief. We pray in need of healing. We pray in loneliness. We pray in sorrow. We pray in uncertainty. We pray in loss. Comfort us and strengthen us for the labor of the day, and also for the joys of the day, for we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.