

Pastoral Prayer
October 18, 2026

Gracious God,

We raise our prayers for those who suffer from illness, who face challenging treatments, who await surgery, or who are recovering from surgery, like Pope Leo. As Jesus brought a healing touch to those who sought him, bring your power to renew to bodies in pain or in weakness. Give order and focus to the thoughts of those enduring mental illness. Aid the caregivers with wisdom, compassion, and insight.

We pray to you from a world in which violence strikes, violence within homes, violence at a school, violence of riots, violence of nations against nations. We pray for a peace that is greater than the simple absence of violence, and we know that we have a role to play in bringing that to be. We desperately need your guidance, O God, for despite the words of Law, Prophets, and Jesus, we still bring harm to one another, and the world groans. Let there be peace.

Bring us your comforting presence, O God. We have a lot of work ahead of us aiding our neighbors who lost homes and businesses to this season's hurricanes. We have a lot of work to house the homeless, feed the hungry, and clothe the poor. We have a lot of work to do to keep ourselves whole from day to day, to meet to our needs, to tend our hurts, to fulfill our obligations, to share the love within us. Find the places, O God, where we can embrace your grace and be filled with your Spirit. Find the places, O God, where we can renew ourselves in you.

Amen.