

Prayers for Sunday Aug 25 and Wednesday Aug 28, 2024

Let us pray:

Dear Father, instill us with a humble heart. Impress all of us to remember we are to care for and nurture all people. Help us to overcome our prejudices.

Leader-Lord of Us All

Congregation: Strengthen our faith.

Dear Father, may you grant healing to those who are ill, comfort to those who are grieving and strength to those who are weak and burdened with hardships. Today we especially pray for Brayden, Brianna, Darla, Denise, Jackie, James O., Jerry, Jerry, Kristy, Larry, Lori, Nancy, Nathan, Oliver, Pat, Rachel, Tracy, Scott, Will and all those we hold in our hearts.

Leader- Lord of Us All

Congregation: Strengthen our faith

Dear Father, our faith seems small, yet when placed in your hands, it can produce a harvest greater than we can imagine. Father take our tiny seed of faith and multiply it with Your strength, wisdom, and guidance.

Leader- Lord of Us All

Congregation: Strengthen our faith

Dear Father, you provide generously for us. Help us to find ways to eliminate poverty and hunger that affects too many people around the globe. Bless our local food pantry; it gives us the opportunity to help others within our community.

Leader- Lord of Us All

Congregation: Strengthen our faith

Father of all Creation may we learn the lessons of the birds and animals who are not anxious about their lives, of what they will eat or drink nor about what they will wear. Help us to remember we are more precious in your sight, and you will walk with us daily. Help us to put to rest our worries and fears and the trust you will provide.

Leader- Lord of Us All

Congregation: Strengthen our faith

We remember with thankful hearts the saints of this congregation who mentored and taught so many of us and who are now with you in their everlasting home. May we honor their memories by sharing what we have learned with others who do not know your story.

Leader- Lord of Us All

Congregation: Strengthen our faith

With everlasting thanks and joy for your love and forgiveness we ask you to be with us till we meet again. This week help us to take every opportunity to be thankful for the blessings of each day. Help us to pay attention to how best we can be a gift to others. May we approach each day with SOUL – serving others, uplifting lives! We ask all in the name of Your Dear Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

August 25, 2024 -Surprise – Gifts of Grace

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

In late summer, my pastor invited my friend Mary and me to head Faith Formation at our church. I eagerly embraced the opportunity to create meaningful curricula for study groups. By September, we had assembled books and videos ranging from learning about God's love through pets to contemporary titles on joy and the book of Ruth, as well as Advent and Lenten programs.

Though we were not expected to lead each session as well, by February no one else had volunteered. Worse yet, my coleader preferred the role of Administrator. "I just don't know how to ask questions, Gail. And you're so good at it." *Why me? Sigh.* I resigned myself to lead "Contemplative Knitting."

Despite my low energy and resentful attitude, I prepped for the hour-long meeting. Only one woman showed up in person; three more appeared online. We opened with prayer, ". . .wherever two or three are gathered in Your name. . ." After a brief video, the ladies began to share both their fiber arts and their prayer practices.

Their stories touched me. One woman, a new American, described meeting a homeless man who needed a blanket. She began to crochet. Over the next few weeks, coworkers offered her yarn for her prayerful project. Eventually, she draped her crocheted afghan over the chilled man's shoulders. Her story made my eyes prickle with tears. Only then did I realize that I "led" this group not to teach, but to learn more love from these grace-filled women.

Divine Teacher, grant me the grace to learn from others, especially when I'm leading.

A reflection from: Gail Thorell Shilling