

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Morning Prayer for August 2026

Glory to God, who has created us in love;

Glory to God, today and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean—

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—

who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down

into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,

how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,

which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life? —Mary Oliver

Collect of the Day

For another morning, we give you thanks. For the joy of our bodies, we give you thanks. For the gift of minds to think and hearts to love, we give you thanks. Sustain us by your Spirit, that we will discover the flowering life within us and serve the world around us. We pray because of Jesus, who shows us the way. Amen.

Reading and Meditation

Prayers:

Holy One, with thanks we remember our ancestors, in our families and in our faith. We remember and give thanks for those who mentored us. Help us to draw upon their strength and wisdom today.

Holy One, we thank you for all those whom we love: our families, our friends, our siblings in Christ, our neighbors, our teachers, our students, those who serve us and those whom we serve.

Holy One, we thank you for the unbearably beautiful earth. We pray for the creatures whose lives are damaged by human impact. We pray for the wisdom and the will to make better choices.

Holy One, we pray for those who are hurting; for those experiencing depression; for those who are undergoing treatment; for those whose days are drawing to a close. We entrust them to your love.

Holy One, we pray for our leaders. Grant them wisdom in their decision-making, and remind them daily what it means to serve.

Holy One, we pray for those who are at war; for those who are fleeing violence; for those who are displaced; for those who are hungry, frightened, and alone. Help us to find the means to be of service.

God of love and justice, we ask today to be of use. We ask to serve your people and your world. We pray that you will send us in the name of Jesus, who calls us to follow. Amen.

Announcements**Blessing:**

May God, who is Love, bless you with the persistence to love when loving is hard.

May you grow this day and every day toward the sunlight of unconditional love.

May love bless you, heal you, and nourish you for the work of love and justice in this time and place. Amen.

Let us go forth in the name of Love!

Thanks be to God.