

FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM NATURAL DISASTERS

Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

– From Compline, Night Prayer of the Church

PRESENCE OF GOD

Even when I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm for You are at my side; Your rod and staff give me courage.

In the name of the Father Who created us, and in the name of Jesus the Christ Who died that we might live, and in the name of the Holy Spirit Who gives us strength and courage, both now and forever. Amen.

HYMN: ON EAGLE'S WINGS

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge,
My Rock in Whom I trust."**

**And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His Wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.**

**You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day,
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come.**

**For to His angels He's given a command,
To guard you in all of your ways,
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.**



PALM 57

Have mercy on me, God, have mercy on me.

In You I seek shelter. In the shadow of Your wings I seek shelter till harm pass by.

I call to God Most High, to God Who provides for me.

**Those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.
May God send help from heaven to save me.
Isaiah 40:31**

**You, Lord, are in our midst, and we are called by Your name;
therefore do not abandon us, Lord, our God.
(Jeremiah 14:9)**

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer
and supplication, let your requests be made known to God.
(Philippians 4:4-6)**



**There's no one quite like Jesus. I could have no better Friend. He's always
there to help me, and He'll be there to the end.**

**Well I know He cares about me, and I'm sure He understands the hurting in
my heart and the trembling in my hands. There's no one quite like Jesus, I
could serve no better Friend.**

**He gave His own life for me, and I'll love Him to the end. Well I've done a lot of
crying and I've had my share of loss, but my troubles seem like nothing when
I see Him on the cross.**

**There's no one quite like Jesus. Why not have Him for your Friend?
He loves you and He'll help you. You can trust Him to the end. --Ron Graham**

REFLECTION: JOAN LANAHAN

“In You, My God, I Place My Trust”

The psalmist prayed this prayer in the midst of chaos.

“Say to the Lord; my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Whom I trust.” We live in chaos. China, with its terrible earthquake. Myanmar, with its cyclone. Both “natural events” have caused so much hardship for thousands.

We turn on the evening news and all we see and hear is more chaos and hardship. Here, in Omaha, we had six killings last weekend. That is shattering news. Wars are not ending and more and more people are laid off from work each day. Unemployment rates rise, as well as the cost of gas, milk, vegetables, and the list goes on.

How can we deal with this chaos in society? It causes more tension in our family lives. It creates desolation in our hearts. What are we to do?

“Don’t worry about anything. Instead, pray about everything.

Tell God your need and thank Him for all He has done.” Phil 4:6

Pray hard and do something about your worries.

If it’s job hunting, keep looking. Ask for help from others – networking, support groups, job coaches, retraining programs, etc.

If it’s feeling helpless about world calamities, find out who is helping people in trouble. Red Cross and churches are requesting all kinds of aid for victims.

If it’s personal desolation; find someone to talk to who is a good listener.

Your answer is within your own heart. Sometimes though, it is difficult to hear in the desolation. That’s why we need help.

God planted a vineyard within my/our hearts. It’s full of God’s love and promise – “I am with you always”. In chaotic times, it is so hard to trust the truth of God’s Love, Power, and Presence. We need one another to point the way to God – to loving self and one another.

God does help those who help themselves – and one another. Trust God. Look for God’s loving you now. Thank God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: God our Refuge, hear Your people.

That we may see the hand of God in the events of our lives, we pray...

That all those who suffer from natural calamities around the globe will not lose heart but rather turn to You, O Lord, in their time of consternation, we pray...

That those who suffer from physical and/or mental health problems, will unite their pain and agony with that of the suffering Christ, we pray...

That those who suffer ridicule and persecution for their beliefs, may find assurance in You, O Lord, we pray...

That those who suffer hardship because of joblessness or homelessness will know of other's care and concern, we pray...

That those who suffer from a lack an education, unjust prejudice, or the evil of others, will find home and consolation in You, O God, we pray...

Let us pray: O God of mercy and justice be with all who suffer in any way. May the suffering they endure make them stronger, more compassionate and more holy as they embrace the cross they are given. May we always accept Your will in our regard. Amen.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

Matthew 6:25

You are my refuge

**My voice cries out to the Lord; my voice cries out its entreaty.
I pour out lamentation in His sight, I proclaim my troubles before Him.**

Psalms 141

LITANY IN SORROW: SISTER URSULA BEGUINE, SSG

**Holy God, You know our hearts. And our foolishness is always in Your sight.
Have mercy on us.**

**Have mercy on us as we struggle in the shadows of sorrow.
Have mercy on us.**

**By Your Holy Spirit keep us close. Direct and empower us to continue faithfully as icons of our personal and communal covenant with You.
Have mercy on us.**

**May we continue to see and serve Christ in our Brother, Christ in our Sister, in every man and every woman.
Have mercy on us.**

**May we leave rage alone.
Have mercy on us.**

**May our hearts be quiet and still within us.
Have mercy on us.**

**Lead us clearly that we may be Your comforting heart and healing hands in a torn and bleeding world.
Have mercy on us.**

**Have mercy on us, and in the face of horrendous evil keep our eyes on Your goodness.
Have mercy on us.**

**Keep our hearts steady that we may remember Your loving kindness and continue to know that You will never abandon the work of Your hands.
Have mercy on us.**

Holy God: Have mercy on those who have moved so unexpectedly into Your Presence.

Lord, Have Mercy.

Holy God: Have mercy on those still alive and trapped in horror.

Lord, Have Mercy.

Holy God: Have mercy on those whose eyes and hearts have been marked forever by what they have seen.

Lord, Have Mercy.

Holy God: Have mercy on those whose bodies have been irreparably damaged.

Lord, Have Mercy.

Holy God: Have mercy on little ones who flounder in bewilderment, tears, and confusion.

Lord, Have Mercy.

Holy God: Have mercy on those who are now thrown into disconsolate grief.

Lord, Have Mercy.

Holy God: Have mercy on the souls of any who may be either guilty or responsible for violence.

Lord, Have Mercy.

Holy God, have mercy on us that by Your grace and according to our understanding we may find a balm for our souls in thanks and praise.

Lord, have mercy.

Holy God, have mercy on us and especially for those who perform acts of selfless heroism in the face of mortal danger.

Lord, have mercy.

Holy God, have mercy on the brave and fatigued hearts still searching to save and for skilled and fatigued hands still working to heal in this very moment of our prayer to You.

Lord, have mercy.



Saint John Baptist de La Salle, give us a spirit of faith in our times of need.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!