

Prayer Service in time of Disaster

All stand.

Opening Song

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

God of compassion,
We stand before you stunned by the events of the past days.
Hear our prayer of lamentation as we plead, "Why?"
We, your people are in pain.

You are all loving and all giving.
All elements of nature obey your command.
Calm the storms that threaten us
and send your Spirit to comfort us

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit.

Reading Lamentations 3:17-26

My soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, "Gone is my glory,
and all that I had hoped for from the Lord,
The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 91: 1-2, 14-15b, 15c-16

Response: In you, my God, I place my trust.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
Say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

Because he clings to me, I will deliver him;
I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name.
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in distress.

I will deliver him and glorify him;
with length of days I will gratify him
and will show him my salvation.

Suggested musical psalm settings:

Be With Me, Lord by Michael Joncas. #788 OCP

On Eagle's Wings, Michael Joncas, #437 OCP, or #611 Gather Comprehensive

All stand.

Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus answered:
"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to the childlike.
Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

All sit.

Homily or Reflection

All stand.

Intercessions

Let us cry out to God on behalf of all who have been affected by the tragedy of recent days.

1. For all members of the Church, may we dedicate ourselves to Christ's example of humble service for the good of everyone. We pray to the Lord.
2. For all those suffering from floods and other natural disasters, may their needs be met with love and compassion. We pray to the Lord.
3. For our community, bring comfort and strength and healing to all who have been injured. We pray to the Lord.
4. For seasonable weather, that building and planting may nurture and restore us . We pray to the Lord.
5. For those who have died and for those who mourn them, grant them the gift of peace. We pray to the Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Let us pray.

**Gracious God,
Send your Holy Spirit among us
to dispel the fear that accompanies grief and loss.
Help us to continue in the days ahead
with our eyes fixed on the salvation you have promised us
through the death and resurrection of your Son,
who is Lord forever and ever.**

Amen.

Sign of Peace

Let us offer Christ's peace to the world by sharing that peace with one another.

Closing Song

Suggested opening and closing songs:

- Amazing Grace (#436 OCP)
- How Can I keep from Singing (#440 OCP)
- O God, Our Help in Ages Past (#442 OCP)
- Christ, Be Our LIght (#506 OCP)