

LITURGY FOR EVENING PRAYER

CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

MARCH 31 2020

OPENING

Discursive Prayers. Participants are invited to light a candle and hold up to the camera. Leader will invite participants to share their brief prayers.

Leader: As we begin, I invite you all to lift up your hands and touch the screen as we unite our hearts, fingertip to fingertip, for a sacred pause. Come, Holy Spirit. (Pause)

Let us pray aloud the words of this Call to Prayer:

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

We will begin with a meditation.

Meditation: "Corona of Thorns"

Reader: reads the Meditation. (Share Screen Pictures of the corona virus under a transmission electron microscope and Christ on the cross wearing crown of thorns during the reading.)

CALL

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Leader: After each prayer is read, we will repeat the **CALL** together, and then pause for you to pray for specific people or instances of which you are aware.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Reader: Tomorrow is another day O Lord. We do not know what it will bring, but make us ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If we are to stand up, help us to stand bravely. If we are to sit down, help us to sit quietly. If we are to stay home, help us do it patiently. And if we are to go forth, let us do it gallantly. Turn the hearts of all women and men to your Son Jesus, their Savior and Lord. Fill our mouths with your words, and fill our words with your power. Thank you for giving us the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

CALL

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

PAUSE

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Reader: O God, the source of all health: We pray for those who have contracted COVID19. Strengthen and heal their bodies. Turn their faces toward You. Fill their hearts with faith in Jesus, so that with hope they may make room for you, and by grace receive your healing, both for now and for eternity. We lift them before you, in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

CALL

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

PAUSE

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING

Reader: Grant O Lord to all who are grieving the comfort and hope of Jesus Christ. Meet them in their sorrow. May they not grieve as those without hope, but in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. Guide them in the coming days and pour out your mercy, we ask you, the God of all comfort. Amen.

CALL

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

PAUSE

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS & FIRST RESPONDERS

Reader: Heavenly Father, we intercede for all the doctors, nurses, health care workers and first responders. Give them faith and courage, so that they may have compassion for the sick and strength for the days to come. Protect them from infection, give them rest, and give them all the necessary resources. May they have divine wisdom and care for every patient, as instruments of your healing and grace. Hear our prayer, for you are the Lord, who heals us. Amen.

CALL

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

PAUSE

PRAYERS FOR GOVERNMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

Reader: Almighty God, Prince of peace, grant that all governments, leaders and institutions work together for the greater and common good of all people. Eliminate all competition and self-centered political gains, while filling every agency with a spirit of cooperation and transparency. Empower them to care for the poor, marginalized, homeless, incarcerated, uninsured and unemployed. Give all

government representatives mercy for others and strength to serve, for the government is on your shoulders, Lord Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

PAUSE

PRAYERS FOR EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

Reader: Companies are shuttered, businesses closed and millions have no source of income. Holy Spirit of mercy and renewal, open up new sources of provision. Inspire creativity in those who have lost their jobs and may their employers treat them as they would treat themselves. Help those who have means to share generously with those in need. In your mercy, hear our prayer, amen.

CALL

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us

PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Reader: Father to the fatherless, you are the defender of widows, orphans, single parents, families and children. Bring forth the fruit of your Spirit – love, patience, kindness and goodness – in every home. Protect the vulnerable from abuse. Place the lonely in families and be with all who struggle with depression and addiction. You are God in your holy dwelling – bring your reign of love and peace in our homes as well. Amen.

CALL

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

PAUSE

PRAYERS FOR REST

Reader: Lord our God, you alone make us dwell in safety. Grant us your peace that all may lie down to sleep and awake refreshed in soul and body. In these days of fear, uncertainty, loss and anxiety, give us your children that perfect peace which you have promised to those whose minds are fixed on you. Lord Jesus, overwhelm us with such a sense of your presence, that in all things, at all times, having all that we need, we may have the abundance for every good work, and enjoy the blessed assurance of your love. Amen.

CALL

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

PAUSE

CONCLUSION

Leader: I invite you all to lift up your hands and once again touch the screen as we unite our hearts, fingertip to fingertip. (Pause)

Leader prays:

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ shed his blood for us and brought us into a saving relationship with you. Save us from this time of trial. Do not treat us as our sins deserve. Help us to follow in your way. May we take up the cross that Jesus gives us, so that his life and purpose may be uniquely alive and active in each one of us in this time. When our hearts are broken, take us again to the cross, and embrace us in your arms of love. May the blood of Jesus, which flowed down from his crown of thorns, purify and empower us. May we receive the strength to persevere, the fullness of your love, and the presence of your Spirit, both now and forever more, amen.

Participants hold up their candle to the camera/screen and extinguish them.

(Note: The words of the Call and Prayers for the People were adapted from the Hour by Hour Book of Prayer, Forward Movement, 2002)