

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS AND LITANIES

KYRIE IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

For those who hunger and thirst for bread, for love, for freedom and justice, for all people in their urgent need and suffering

Lord, have mercy.*

For those who live in worry and anxiety, for those in deep concern the lives of loved ones, for those who have died, and for us, when death approaches:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who seek shelter from the hot sun, water for their thirst, food for their hunger, and medicine for their ills:

Lord, have mercy.

For those isolated and alone, in the panic and fear that grows as danger increases day-by-day:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have used chaos as an opportunity for violence, and disaster as a pretext for theft and so increase terror and misery:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have been uprooted from family and home, from work, and from joy and who still journey into more uncertainty and upheava

Lord, have mercy.

For those in desperation and fear, for whom there is no rest and for whom the light of deliverance does not appear:

Lord, have mercy.

For those called to tend the sick, protect the innocent, rescue the trapped, and comfort the grieving

Lord, have mercy.

For government leaders at all levels, entrusted with responsibility, to lead, inspire and act for the common good time of urgent crisis:

Lord, have mercy..

For those who hear the call to volunteer, to house, to feed, to clothe, heal and welcome:

Lord, have mercy.

Behold, Lord, your people wait for you.

We wait for you and long for your appearing. Amen.

Written for use at a prayer vigil at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Waverly, Iowa, on September 1st, 2005. The material is not copyrighted and may be freely used and adapted for use in worship.

*The alternative "Kyrie eleison" maybe used in place of "Lord, have mercy."

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**"Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge." (Psalm 16:1)**

God of the mountains and the seas, the awesome power of nature can be both a wonder as well as a source of tragedy. We cry out to you in this time of great need to the people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Almighty and everlasting God, comfort of the sad and strength to those who suffer: Let the prayers of your children who are in any trouble rise to you. We lift up to you the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. For those who have lost loved ones, grant your peace; for those who seek shelter and food, grant your comfort; for those facing illness, grant your healing; for those whose lives have been shattered, grant your strength.

God of wisdom and strength, guide the hands of those who provide emergency relief. We entrust to you those who care for the bereaved, those with the gift of healing, those who carry the burdens of moving debris, and those who distribute much needed supplies. Hopeless as it may seem at times, their work is very important. Give them the endurance that is needed to continue in their good works.

God of all consolation, in the midst of things we do not understand, tragedy too great to comprehend, and grieving too heavy to bear, grant your peace. This is a time when we welcome your Word of hope born into our world. May that hope burn in our hearts.

Amen

*Rev. Charlene Cox, Waldorf College, Forest City, IA (Emended)*

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Hurricane Katrina Litany

Gracious God, we pray for the people affected by Hurricane Katrina, and for all people affected by natural disasters. Be a source of strength and courage during this time of distress and destruction, and a refuge and comfort to all those who suffer and grieve at this time.

Remain with us, God, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Sustaining God, we pray for the people of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, and for relief workers as they assess damage, assist victims, and begin on the journey of recovery.

Remain with us, God, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God of hope, we lift up the ELCA Domestic Disaster Response team and our partners in the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, the Southeastern Synod, the Florida-Bahamas Synod and Lutheran social ministry agencies throughout the South, who are on site and prepared to care in the aftermath of this disaster long after it is out of the news.

Remain with us, God, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Giver of all good things, we thank you for the members of your family, the Church, who, though they may not be able to be present physically to assist in response to the

great needs created by the disasters, give generously in spirit through prayer and financial gifts to make our disaster relief efforts possible.

Remain with us, God, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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Kyrie/Litany

With heavy hearts and sorrowing spirits, we come to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lift the burdens of our souls.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Heal the sorrows that we know.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Mend the hearts broken by tragedy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

End the suffering of the wounded.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help the grieving back to wholeness.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Bring creation out of chaos, that all may join the angel chorus.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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Prayer for hurricane victims:

O God of mercy, look with pity upon all those who have been left homeless, bereft, in shock, in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Almighty Creator, source of life, healing and strength, bring

Holy God, who fed your people in the wilderness, whose loving kindness is everlasting, lift the burdens of all who are weary from the search for food and refresh those who are parched from thirst. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O Source of all consolation, comfort with the sure sense of your presence all who feel forsaken, whose hope is dried up. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, who sent your son to bring sight to the blind, hearing and healing to all who asked, open our ears to all cries of affliction, and through us provide healing and help. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you ask us to cleanse our hearts, to loose the bonds of oppression, and to repair the ruins. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, that we might pour ourselves out for the victims of disaster so that they, too, will know your generous healing power. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Global Mission Service of Healing)

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O merciful God and heavenly Father, you asked us to call upon you in all our need and distress, and moreover, you promised to hear our prayers and to help us, thereby causing us to give thanks. During this past perilous season, we have felt nature weigh heavily upon us. Keep us from anger, that we might turn our hearts to you, as the ruinous gale passes over us and the earth trembles.

We give ourselves to you with humble hearts, and pray that you will graciously grant by your Holy Spirit, that we are found thankful, not only in word, but also in deed and in truth, that our lives may give glory and praise to you, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on true God, forever and ever. Amen.

OR

O merciful God and heavenly Father, you asked us to call upon you in all need and distress, and moreover promised to hear our prayers and to help us, thereby causing us to give thanks. During this past perilous season, we have felt your help and assistance, as you have preserved our lives and homes, and kept the ruinous gale from afflicting us and the earth from trembling.

Therefore we give thanks to you from humble hearts, and we pray that you will graciously grant by your Holy Spirit,

that we are found thankful, not only  
in word, but also in deed and in truth,  
that our lives may give glory and praise  
to you, through your beloved Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
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Copenhagen: Bianco Luno, 1880.