

# **Some Resources In Response to the Tsunami Disaster**

## **January 2005**

### ***A. Various Prayers***

**Let us pray ...**

#### **Prayer #1**

O Lord, our minds fill so easily with the devastating images of the tragic tsunami and earthquake that has wrecked havoc on so many people in nations surrounding the Indian Ocean.

Many of our hearts continue to ache with the knowledge of so many innocent lives shattered, of families and friends who have lost loved ones, of survivors who forever will carry with them the trauma and pain of that terrible day, of the courage of ordinary people who risked their own lives to save others.

Comfort those who are grieving;  
Dispel any fears that cloud our own living;  
Remove any obstacles between nations that would hamper relief efforts.

Teach us to build new bridges of understanding between all people  
so that through our shared efforts to comfort the victims we will recognize  
our common humanity.  
Inspire us to be compassionate like Jesus in all of our relationships.

Give us the courage to make personal sacrifices on behalf of those in need and to carry on  
in the face of seeming insurmountable challenges;  
Grant us the wisdom to learn from adversity and strengthen us to build a new and better  
world.  
May all of our efforts to assist those whose lives have been shattered by this disaster be a  
sign of hope for their future.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our brother, who lives and reigns with you and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

#### **Prayer #2**

Lord Jesus, the Christmas season, with its joyful message of hope and peace, will forever  
be clouded for so many people who have fallen victim to the devastating power of the  
earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2005.

It will be especially difficult for the tens of thousands of people who lost loved ones in  
that disaster.

Bring them comfort and hope in the knowledge that the love of God is more powerful than death, more lasting than the feelings of emptiness we feel when we lose someone we care about.

Let us pray this day for all those people who continue to work for on behalf of the survivors in places many of us had never heard of before these tragic events unfolded, seemingly before our eyes. Keep them and all the survivors safe and give them the strength and courage to face the challenges of the work that lies ahead.

We pray also for ourselves who would consider the roles we might play in helping others re-build their lives. Touch our hearts with your compassion, and reveal to us your ways of justice and peace.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our brother, Amen.

### **Prayer of St. Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and, where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled, as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.

### **People of Peace (adapted from Colossians 3: 12 – 15 )**

Lord, let us live as God's chosen ones...  
May we be holy and beloved, clothed in compassion, kindness, humility,  
meekness, and patience.  
Let us bear with one another;  
Let us forgive, as Christ has forgiven us.  
May love bind us together  
And may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.  
Amen.

## **A Prayer For Nations**

Lord God, as we ponder the immensity of the tsunami disaster, we ask that your healing and comfort continue to flow, through us, to those who have been injured or who grieve.

We pray for wisdom for the leaders of all countries; give them the convictions of your justice, to bind up the wounds of the suffering and to continue the work on their behalf to build a more stable and equitable world.

Please protect all peoples from the effects of natural disasters, inspiring us all to use our gifts and resources more freely to create structures that would temper the effects of the forces of nature.

Reveal your heart of compassion to anyone who would consider a personal response to these events.

Inspire all people of faith to be profess justice in word and deed; may religion spread its blessings among all peoples and may faith in God guide us all in every decision we make.

Rid the world of any deafness to the cries of the poor and the oppressed and increase among all people the desire to work for a more just future for everyone.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Lord and our brother, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## **When Our Burdens Seem Too Heavy**

We come to you, O God, for your gracious help.

You dwell within our hearts and feel all of our distress, especially in light of the devastation wrought by the recent earthquake and tsunami in South Asia.

You know our sense of loss and how burdened many of us feel.

You know our fears and how our views of the world may have been changed.

Give us strength to bear our burdens with courage,

and the wisdom and grace to embrace the goodness that still surrounds us.

Help us to be true to your divine image reflected in each one of us,

to discern our real work in life, and to do it with the might of all of our love.

When we struggle within our own hearts, stay by our side.

Then we shall be able to say with your prophet Isaiah (40:31) *But those who hold fast to the Eternal shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint.*

May our work, and the ties that bind us to family and friends, make life rich in meaning for us, so that each day we live may be yet another step leading us nearer to you.

Amen.

**A Prayer For Use With Children**  
**By the Rev. John Morgan**  
*(Two voices)*

Spirit of Life, which is given us as a gift, we thank you.  
OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BY THY NAME.

May we love each other as you have loved us.  
THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE. ON EARTH AS IT IS  
IN HEAVEN.

May we share with each other the earth's abundance, so that no child goes to bed  
hungry or without a home or family.  
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

May we say we are sorry when we hurt others, and not hold grudges.  
AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.

Help us to do what is fair, and not be bullies.  
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

For our planet and all the family of creatures on our blue, spiral globe, and for all  
galaxies as yet unknown.  
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM.

Let kindness be in our hearts and love in our spirits, so that we might all be your  
children.  
AND THE POWER AND GLORY FOREVER.

Make it be so.  
AMEN

## **B. Litanies**

### **Litany #1**

#### **Jesus, Pour Mercy ...**

**Reader #1:** On all who grieve and all who died in the devastating earthquake and tsunami and their aftermath,

**All:** Jesus, pour mercy.

**Reader #2:** On those whose homes, livelihood, and emotional well-being have been destroyed or compromised,

**All:** Jesus, pour mercy.

**Reader #3:** On those displaced and those still needing refuge,

**All:** Jesus, pour mercy.

**Reader #4:** On all children left frightened, sleepless, and parentless since the disaster,

**All:** Jesus, pour mercy.

**Reader #5:** On the devastation of city and countryside throughout the nations bordering the Indian Ocean.

**All:** Jesus, pour mercy.

**Reader #6:** When we fail to take to heart your Word of grace,

**All:** Jesus, awaken justice.

**Reader #7:** When we bind up our own wounds only, and forget the suffering of strangers,

**All:** Jesus, awaken justice.

**Reader #8:** When in our fear we retreat and isolate,

**All:** Jesus, awaken justice.

**Reader #9:** When we seek security based only our own needs might and not on right-relationship among peoples,

**All:** Jesus, awaken justice.

**Reader #10:** That all who have suffered as a result of these natural disasters may heal; that individuals, families, communities, and nations may be restored to peace and a viable future,

**All:** Jesus, we labour with you.

**Reader #11:** That growing understanding among faithful peoples will lead to a shared vision of justice and peace,

**All:** Jesus, we labour with you.

**Reader #12:** That profound cooperation among nations, which share God's earth,  
may lead to structures of justice and peace,

**All:** Jesus, we labour with you.

**Reader #13:** That inequitable economic, social and political structures may be  
transformed and structures may grow that lead to your vision of justice  
and peace in the lives of all people.

**All:** Jesus, we labour with you.

**Leader:** Jesus, we labour with you.

O God, hear our hopes and make us faithful in your  
ways of love and justice.

We ask this in your name, Jesus, the source of compassion, justice and  
authentic peace. Amen.

## **Litany #2**

### **God of Strength ...**

**Leader:** May the God of STRENGTH be with you, holding you in strong fingered  
hands. May you be the sacrament of God's strength to those whose hands  
you hold during these difficult days.

**All:** May God's STRENGTH be with us.

**Leader:** May the God of GENTLENESS be with you, caressing you with sunlight  
and rain and summer winds. May God's tenderness gently shine through  
you to all who are hurting and lonely.

**All:** May God's GENTLENESS be with us.

**Leader:** May the God of MERCY be with you, encouraging you to say, "Now, I  
will get up again" when you feel battered and discouraged.

**All:** May God's MERCY be with us.

**Leader:** May the God of COMPASSION be with you, holding you close when you  
are weary and hurt and alone, and when there is rain in your heart.

**All:** May God's COMPASSION be with us.

**Leader:** May the God of PEACE be with you, stilling the heart that hammers with  
fear.

**All:** May God's PEACE be with us.

**Leader:** May the God of LOVE be with you - listening to you - giving God's Self to you, drawing you close as you tremble. May God's love in you, light fires of faith and hope for others.

**All:** May God's LOVE be with us.

**Leader:** May the God of WONDER be with you, delighting you with thunder and bird-song, sunrise and daisy, enhancing your senses, filling your heart, giving you wide-open eyes.

**All:** May God's WONDER be with us.

**Leader:** May the God of HOPE be with you, reminding you that you are not alone, and that together, we shall rise out of the ashes of our sadness, desolation, fear and anger.

**All:** May God's HOPE be with us. Amen.

### **Litany #3**

For those who even now work in the face of danger.  
We Give Thanks.

For those who remained behind with the infirm and injured.  
We Give Thanks.

For those who thought of others first.  
We Give Thanks.

For those who offered comfort to others.  
We Give Thanks.

For moments of unknowing.  
Grant Us Courage.

In times of doubt and fear.  
Grant Us Courage.

When called to stand for the rights of others.  
Grant Us Courage.

When called to make sacrifices to provide for those in need.  
Grant Us Courage.

When the forces of nature seem to lash out at the innocent.  
Bless Us With Your Peace.

When darkness clouds our vision of the future.  
Bless Us With Your Hope.

When we feel the urge to give up in the face of the immensity of the challenges.  
Bless Us With Your Perseverance.

When we look to the future of your creation.  
Bless Us With Your Justice.

Amen. Amen.

### ***C. Sample Prayers of Intercession***

**Leader:** Let us pray ...

Lord God, giver of all that is good and the source of true justice and peace,  
hear us now as we bring our prayers before you.

The response to each petition is **Fill us with peace and hope.**

**Leader:** Lord, perfect love casts out all fear. As we remember the victims of the natural disasters of this past December, embrace them with your love and draw them into friendship with all the saints who have gone before them.  
We pray:

**All:** Fill us with peace and hope.

**Leader:** Lord, perfect love casts out all fear. May all those who have died as a result of the earthquake and tsunami and their aftermath find comfort in the light of your rest. We pray:

**All:** Fill us with peace and hope.

**Leader:** Lord, perfect love casts out all fear. May any who would impede in any way the disaster relief efforts be touched by the compassionate heart of Jesus. We pray:

**All:** Fill us with peace and hope.

**Leader:** Lord, perfect love casts out all fear. For a world riddled by divisions give way to understanding and a shared sense of our common humanity. We pray:

**All:** Fill us with peace and hope.

**Leader:** Lord, perfect love casts out all fear. For the Church, may it become the living, breathing body of Christ and be a place of refuge for those broken by this disaster and all forms of injustice and oppression. We pray:

**All:** Fill us with peace and hope.

**Leader:** Lord, perfect love casts out all fear. For our local communities and schools, may they be places of compassion, fairness, mercy and beacons of hope and peace. We pray:

**All:** Fill us with peace and hope.

**Leader:** Lord, perfect love casts out all fear. For each one of us gathered here, may we hear, receive, and respond to the Gospel's challenge of justice and peace. We pray:

**All:** Fill us with peace and hope.

## *D. Prayer Service For an Elementary School*

### **Prayer Service of Solidarity: ( In Light of the Tsunami Disaster )**

**Introduction:** (All are seated.)

**Leader:** Welcome, everyone, to this prayer celebration. We gather as a school community, in prayer and solidarity, joining our voices to many throughout the world, to remember the victims and survivors of the Tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia. It is so difficult for all of us to imagine destruction, death and sadness of such great magnitude. Our hearts struggle with the unbearable grief and devastation of so many people, especially children. So many lives have been broken; so many dreams have been lost; so many homelands have been leveled into wastelands!

Etched upon our minds as well, however, are the faces of courage, the hearts of generosity and the hands of compassion of people all over the world, doing what they can to help mend the crippling desolation and bring hope and healing to the struggling survivors.

Today we gather then, sensitive to the overwhelming misery of so many and yet believing and trusting in God's mercy and love.

We call on our God to be with us today.

Let us take a moment to still our hearts and place ourselves in God's presence.

We begin with the sign of our faith.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray ...

God of compassion, we gather in your name and turn to you for comfort, direction and help.

We place before you all the people who have been affected by the Tsunami disaster. Have mercy on all who have died. Bring them into the fullness of your joy.

Console the broken-hearted and all those who have lost loved ones; hold them in your arms.

Strengthen those who are working amongst the suffering; give them hands of compassion, healing and hope.

May your justice, understanding and peace prevail as people strive to confront and heal their pain and restore their livelihoods, in the face of this destruction.

This we ask through Jesus your Son and our crucified brother, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please stand for our opening song.

**Gathering Song:** *Open My Eyes (Spirit and Song # 196) or other suitable song e.g. Speak Lord, I'm Listening (Year 5, Song #2), Here I Am, Lord (Year 6, Song #15)*

Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see your face  
Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see

Open my ears, Lord  
Help me to hear your voice  
Open my ears, Lord  
Help me to see.

Open my heart, Lord  
Help me to love like you  
Open my heart, Lord  
Help me to love.

I live within you  
Deep in your heart, O Love  
I live within you  
Rest now in me.

**Leader:** *Please be seated as we listen to God's Word..*

**First Reading:** ( 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - 14, 17 )

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians:

We want you to be quite certain about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus. God will bring them with him. With such thoughts as these let us comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm:** 23 ( CD or tape: Come and See: Year 4, Song #11 )

**Psalm Refrain:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

## **General Intercessions**

**Leader:** Let us pray ... Heavenly Father, we bring our thoughts, concerns and hopes to you today, during this special service of solidarity, knowing that you hear us and love us beyond all telling. We believe in you and trust in your kindness and mercy.

**The response to our petitions is:** Lord, hear our prayer.

- For world leaders challenged to respond to the suffering and brokenness of the Tsunami disaster, may they be generous and resolute in responding to the needs of people affected by this disaster.

We pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For those who feel alone and devastated by the Tsunami, may they feel the compassion of God, through the disaster relief efforts. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For families that have been lost and for loved ones who mourn them, may God's tender healing touch their lives.

We pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For the survivors of this disaster, may they be strengthened with determination and hope to rebuild and renew their commitment to build a compassionate world.

We pray to the Lord. **R.**

- For those whose faith and sense of well being has been shattered by the Tsunami, may the kindness and caring of others bring encouragement and peace to others.

We pray to the Lord. **R.**

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we yearn for your love and healing in the world. Hear and answer our prayers and those deep within our hearts. Inspire us to be people of compassion and service. This we ask through Jesus, your son, who lives and reigns, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Sign of Peace**

**Leader:** Let us extend a sign of peace with one another.

### **Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, the world hungers for your healing and hope. Pour out your spirit upon the victims and survivors of the Tsunami. Strengthen aid workers in the disaster areas to mend what is broken.

May our classrooms and hearts continue to be places where God's healing and compassion are our guide and model of love. May we be sensitive to the needs of those around us and respond with generosity and kindness.

This we ask through Jesus, your son who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

Please stand for our closing song.

**Closing Song:** Peace is Flowing (Glory and Praise, #190, Gather #526)

Peace is flowing like a river, flowing out of you and me  
Flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.

His love is flowing like a river, flowing out of you and me  
Flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.

His healing's flowing like a river, flowing out of you and me  
Flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.