

Day of Hope Prayer Service

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning/afternoon and welcome to our Day of Hope Prayer Service for victims of _____ . Let us remember that as we gather in Jesus' name, He himself is with us.

With the confidence of knowing Jesus is in our midst, let us join in our opening song:

Sugg: *The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me)* *Like a Sunflower*
We are Called *May We Be One*
I Believe in the Sun

See list at end of prayer service for additional songs.

OPENING PRAYER:

Let us begin our prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God our Father, You made the heavens and the earth. You sent us Your Son Jesus to lift the burdens of our hearts and calm our fears by his cross and rising from the dead. He taught us to reach out to him in the poor and suffering, and to pray for one another's needs. And so, we ask You to hear our prayers, for we make them to You in His name. Amen.

FIRST READING :

In this first reading from the book of Revelation, John reminds us that we are all journeying to the fullness of God's Reign, where one day, everything will be made perfect in a new heaven and a new earth, and that God Himself will dry away our tears.

Let us listen to the word of God.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation.

I, John saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

Mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

For the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said,

“See, I am making all things new.”

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

RESPONSE TO READING (two options):

A/ Sung Response:

LEADER: For our response to the first reading, please join in singing:

Sugg: *You are Near
Be Not Afraid*

*On Eagle's Wings
Fly Like a Bird*

Or

B/ Psalm Response:

LEADER: **The response for the psalm is:** *God is our refuge and our strength.*

1. God is our refuge and strength.
He is with us in times of trouble.
R. *God is our refuge and our strength.*
2. Therefore we will not be afraid
if the earth should change.
R. *God is our refuge and our strength.*
3. If the mountains shake
in the heart of the sea.
R. *God is our refuge and our strength.*
4. Though the waters roar and form
And mountains tremble.
R. *God is our refuge and our strength.*

(Based on psalm 46, 1-3).

GOSPEL READING

In this Gospel reading, Jesus reminds us that we can trust God, who hears our prayers and wants to give us the good things we need. As God's children, we also must love one another. Let us be attentive, as Jesus speaks to us in the words of His Holy Gospel.

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, . . . know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.”

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

OPTIONAL: Reflection or presentation by Priest, staff member or students

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

With trust in God's mercy and compassion, let us offer up our prayers.

1. For the Church, and a renewed love of God and neighbour in all its members, bearing fruit in generous sharing of God's gifts. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
2. For all the world's people, that we might see each other as God's children and open our hearts to one another's needs. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
3. For all who partake of the one Eucharist. That our sharing in Christ's body and blood might make us more fully committed to breaking and sharing what God has given us for the good of others. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
4. For all people who are suffering after _____, that they might find comfort in the prayers and care of those who reach out to help them. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
5. For our school community. That our prayers today might re-awaken our concern for one another here and help us to respond to the poor and suffering throughout our global community. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
6. For the gift of hope and peace. That the Holy Spirit poured out on us at Baptism might strengthen us to follow Jesus in word and action to be signs of the hope and peace of his Reign. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*
7. For our own intentions... ...We pray to the Lord... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us unite all our prayers – spoken and in the silence of our hearts – with the prayer that Jesus taught us. ***Our Father...***

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord God, by his example of loving service, your Son Jesus showed us the way to fullness of life in You. We ask You to hear our prayers for those suffering in _____. Help us to better serve one another both near and far. May our generosity and care be a reminder to all that Jesus is truly risen and alive in our midst. We make this prayer to You in Jesus' name.

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPTIONAL: CLOSING REMARKS (Principal, Pastor, Chaplain, Staff, Senior Student) on the significance of the school community's response to the disaster in _____, with thanks to all who have contributed to fundraising, encouragement for continued efforts to support the poor and needy locally and globally.

CLOSING SONG (optional):

Please join in our closing song, _____

Sugg: <i>Blest are they</i>	<i>Make Me a Channel of Your Peace</i>
<i>They'll Know we are Christians</i>	<i>Let's Go Forth</i>
<i>Here I Am Lord</i>	<i>One Bread One Body</i>
<i>Children of the Light</i>	<i>Shine, Jesus Shine</i>