



A PRAYER VIGIL FOR THE SICK & SUFFERING

*This is a service of prayer, readings and psalms,
with silence appointed for the prayers of your own heart and the contemplation of Christ with the world.*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. Christ's mercy endures forever.

Silence.

Most merciful God,
I confess that I have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what I have done,
and by what I have left undone.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved my neighbors as myself.
I am truly sorry and I humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on me and forgive me;
that I may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins through our Lord
Jesus Christ, strengthen me in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep me in eternal life. Amen.

The first reading: A reading from the Book of Job:

But how can a mortal be just before God? If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand. He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength—who has resisted him, and succeeded?—he who removes mountains, and they do not know it, when he overturns them in his anger; who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars; who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the Sea; who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south; who does great things beyond understanding, and marvelous things without number. Look, he passes by me, and I do not see him; he moves on, but I do not perceive him. He snatches away; who can stop him? Who will say to him, ‘What are you doing?’

Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling! I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would learn what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me. Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; but he would give heed to me. There an upright person could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge. If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him. But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I shall come out like gold. My foot has held fast to his steps; I have kept his way and have not turned aside. I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured in^[d] my bosom the words of his mouth. But he stands alone and who can dissuade him? What he desires, that he does.

I know that you can do all things and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me. I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you.

A period of silence.

Psalm 143: 1-2, 4-8, 11:

- ¹ Lord, hear my prayer,
and in your faithfulness heed my supplications;*
answer me in your righteousness.
- ² Enter not into judgment with your servant,*
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.
- ⁴ My spirit faints within me;*
my heart within me is desolate.
- ⁵ I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds;*
I consider the works of your hands.
- ⁶ I spread out my hands to you;*
my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.
- ⁷ O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me;*
do not hide your face from me or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
- ⁸ Let me hear of your loving kindness in the morning,
for I put my trust in you;*
show me the road that I must walk, for I lift up my soul to you.
- ¹¹ Revive me, O Lord, for your Name's sake;*
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

A period of silent prayer, then:

Almighty and merciful God, giver of life and health: Comfort and heal your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom my prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The second reading: from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ

Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation. He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope ... as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

A period of silence.

Psalm 91:

- ¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,*
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- ² He shall say to the Lord, "You are my refuge and my stronghold,*
my God in whom I put my trust.
- ³ He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter*
and from the deadly pestilence.
- ⁴ He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge under his wings;*
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
- ⁵ You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,*
nor of the arrow that flies by day.
- ⁶ Of the plague that stalks in the darkness,*
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
- ⁷ A thousand shall fall at your side,
and ten thousand at your right hand,*
but it shall not come near you.
- ⁸ Your eyes have only to behold*
to see the reward of the wicked.
- ⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge,*
and the Most High your habitation,
- ¹⁰ There shall no evil happen to you,*
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
- ¹¹ For he shall give his angels charge over you,*
to keep you in all your ways.

- ¹² They shall bear you in their hands,*
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- ¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and adder;*
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.
- ¹⁴ Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him;*
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.
- ¹⁵ He shall call upon me and I will answer him;*
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor
- ¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy him,*
and show him my salvation.

A period of silent prayer, then:

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to the sick and those who suffer the help of your power, that sickness may be turned into health, and sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The third reading: from the Gospel according to Mark:

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

A period of silence.

Psalm 4:

- ¹ Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;*
you set me free when I am hard pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- ² “You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;*
how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?”
- ³ Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;*
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- ⁴ Tremble, then, and do not sin;*
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- ⁵ Offer the appointed sacrifices*
and put your trust in the Lord.
- ⁶ Many are saying, “Oh that we might see better times!”*
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.
- ⁷ You have put gladness in my heart,*
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- ⁸ I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;*
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

A period of silent prayer, followed by:

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Almighty God, graciously comfort your servants who suffer and bless those who minister to them. Fill their hearts with confidence that, though at times they may be afraid, they may put their trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord; thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.