

A Service of Prayer and Reflection
for victims and survivors of the earthquake and tsunami

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

We sing Together in Song 123, "Be still, my soul"

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**We come to you, O God,
in shock and grief,
with our hearts full of sorrow
for the suffering of our brothers and sisters.**

**Comfort us, we pray,
and stay close to all who are working with the survivors
to find the lost, care for the living,
and build new hope from the ruins.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First reading: Job 26.5-14

Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our refuge:
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the earth and the world were born:
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust:
and say, "Go back, you children of earth".

For a thousand years in your sight are as yesterday when it is past:
or like a watch in the night.

You cut them off like a dream:
and like the new grass of the morning.

In the morning it springs up and flourishes:
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

When you are angry, all our days pass away:
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

The span of our life is seventy years, or,
if we have strength, perhaps eighty:

**yet the pride of our toil is but trouble and sorrow,
for it passes away quickly and we are gone.**

Who knows the power of your wrath?:
who knows your indignation like those who fear you?

Teach us rightly to number our days:
so that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Relent, O Lord; how long will you be angry?
take pity on your servants.

O satisfy us early with your mercy:
that all our days we may rejoice and sing.

Give us joy for all the days you have afflicted us:
for the years we have suffered adversity.

Show your serants your work:
and let their children see your glory.

May the gracious favour of the Lord be upon us:
**prosper the work of our hands,
O prosper the work of our hands!**

We sing Together in Song 647, "Comfort, comfort all my people"

Second reading: Matthew 5.1-16

Reflection

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

God the Father,
have mercy on us.

God the Son,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.

Holy and blessed Trinity, one God,
have mercy on us.

In these days of shock and mourning,
have mercy on us.

In the pain of lost life and shattered hopes,
have mercy on us.

In our grieving for those who have died,
have mercy on us.

In our compassion for all who are bereaved,
have mercy on us.

For the rescue workers and medical teams treating the injured,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For people searching for those who have been swept away,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For people identifying and burying the bodies of the dead,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of all the nations, offering sympathy, support, and aid,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For aid agencies and their workers, responding with practical care,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For a generous response to appeals for medicine, food and shelter,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Australians who have friends and family in the disaster areas,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the survivors who are left alone and bereaved of their loved ones,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For communities that have lost their homes and livelihoods,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For wisdom in planning the future for devastated communities,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For solidarity with the suffering of the dispossessed,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the victims of drought, flood, fire or earthquake everywhere on earth,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Christ to bring all the peoples of the world
into one flock with one shepherd,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Christ to bring healing and comfort for those we love
who are sick or in mourning,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Christ to bring us, with all who have died in faith,
to a joyful resurrection,

Lord, hear our prayer.

And now as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

We sing Together in Song 349 "In the cross of Christ I glory"

All are invited to come forward and light a candle as a prayer for the victims, survivors, and rescue workers.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The people are blessed.

We sing Together in Song 134, "Praise, my soul, the king of heaven".