

Leader’s Guide: Prayer Service in Times of Natural Disaster

Prayer Setting:

- Create a prayer setting with fitting symbols as focal points. Consider creating an arrangement with a pillar candle, a globe, fabric, and a cross or crucifix.
- Using newspaper or on-line reports, print out appropriate photos as a visual focal point for prayer. Use sensitivity when selecting photos. Enlarge several photos and display them with the arrangement.

Opening Ritual:

Arrange votive lights for the people and countries affected by the disaster. Begin in silence until the candles are all lit - consider using an appropriate or symbolic number of candles for remembrance.

Opening Song:

THERE IS A LONGING, by Anne Quigley, Published by OCP.
(Hear song at: <http://www.spiritandsong.com/musicdemand/songs/13226>)

Refrain

*There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts
for love we only find in you, our God.*

Verses:

1. For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief: be near, hear our prayer, O God.
2. For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear: be near, hear our prayer, O God.

Alternate Opening Song

Suggestions:

- Lord of All Hopefulness
- God Weeps with Those Who Mourn – Troeger/Morris
- Ubi Caritas - Browning or Taizé
- Open My Eyes -Manibusan

3. For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer.
In sickness, in death: be near, hear our prayer, O God.
4. Lord save us, take pity, light in our darkness.
We call you, we wait: be near, hear our prayer, O God.

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Psalm: Psalm 77: 11-20 *Psalm is read in stanzas by reader, antiphon is recited or sung by all.*

I will remember the deeds of the LORD;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
I will meditate on all your works
and consider all your mighty deeds.

R.
Your ways, O God, are holy.
What god is so great as our God?
You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.

R.
With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.
The waters saw you, O God,
the waters saw you and trembled;
the very depths were convulsed.

R.

The clouds poured down water,
the skies resounded with thunder;
your arrows flashed back and forth.
Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
your lightning lit up the world;
the earth trembled and quaked.

R
Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters,
though your footprints were not seen.
You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

R.



Alternate Psalm Suggestions:

- Psalm 63 -*Longing for God*
- Psalm 69- *A Cry of Anguish in Great Distress*
- Psalm 70 - *Prayer for Divine Help*
- Psalm 107 -*They cried to the Lord in their distress...*

Gospel Reading:

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, as evening drew on, he said to them, "Let us cross to the other side." Leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

Reflection Song:

O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER - Taizé

Closing Song

Closing Song Suggestions:

- Psalm of Hope – Goebel-Komala
- The Lord Is Near - Joncas
- The Lord will Heal the Broken Heart - Lawton
- Carry Your Candle - Cathy Tricolli
- Dona Nobis Pacem - Traditional
- This Is My Song - Hymn Tune: FINLANDIA
- Bread for the World - Bernadette Farrell