

Prayer after Disaster

(Leader) Opening Prayer: Gracious God, your word of peace stills the storms that rage in our world. Bring hope to all persons and places that know devastation in the calm following the winds and rains of Hurricane Harvey. Bring comfort to those who grieve the loss of loved ones and property. Provide assistance to those who need help. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(All) Psalm 69: 16-18

Do not let the flood waters overwhelm me, nor the deep swallow me, nor the pit close its mouth over me. Answer me, LORD, in your generous love; in your great mercy turn to me. Do not hide your face from your servant; hasten to answer me, for I am in distress.

(Reader) A Reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew (8: 23-27):

Jesus got into a boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep. They came and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?" Then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm. The men were amazed and said, "What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?"

- Brief pause to reflect on the Gospel.

(Leader) Intercessions: **Response:** Be merciful to us, O God.

1. That God comfort those who have lost family and property, we pray... **R.**
2. That God preserve the lives of all those affected by the flood, we pray ...**R.**
3. For wisdom in the execution of relief efforts in the affected areas, we pray... **R.**
4. For gratitude for the many acts of courage and generosity that have been bestowed on those affected by the storm, we pray ... **R.**
5. For knowledge to guide all medical authority in the prevention of diseases and epidemics from water-borne conditions, we pray... **R.**
6. For the personal intentions within our hearts, we pray ... **R.**

(Leader) Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us. *Our Father ...*

(Leader) Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, let your love be known through those who work to bring order to the chaos. Help us to endure the time of uncertainty and give us strength to face the challenges ahead. Give us the assurance of your presence even in this time so that we can cling to your promise of hope and life shown to us. Ease the fears of all and make your presence known in the stillness of your peace. Help us to shoulder the burden of suffering and make us bearers of hope that can be found in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Parts of the prayer adapted from Lutheran Disaster Response, Upstate NY Plan Spiritual Care Prayers Annex Draft – 08152011