

DURHAM CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
PRAYERSERVICE: HAITI EARTHQUAKE, JANUARY 2010

GREETING

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

All: **the maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader:

God, our refuge and our fortress, we tremble in the present moment as we recall the recent earthquake disaster in Haiti:

Our strength has gone; we look for light but find darkness;

Gather us under your wings and fulfill your promise to be with us in trouble.

Show us your salvation as we put our trust in you, through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the book of Lamentations

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is GOD'S faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD... For the Lord will not cast off for ever, but, though there may be suffering, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for the LORD does not willingly afflict or grieve the human race.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Side A: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

Side B: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

Side A: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

Side B: O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

It is God who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

All: O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

Gospel *A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

Gospel Response

Leader: Loving, ever-living and compassionate God, You understand the pain of loss, the heartache of bereavement,

All: May we hold in our hearts all those whose families or friends have died in the Haiti disaster.

Leader: You are a light that shines in the darkest times,

All: Guide us and heal us in our current sorrow.

Leader: You comfort us in times of fear, especially in these days after the Haiti disaster;

All: May we comfort each other, even across the miles that keep us apart.

Leader: You console and lead us in times of doubt and confusion,

All: May we follow the light of your love, and spread hope.

Leader: You move our hearts to acts of generosity,

All: May we be led to share what we have with those in need, especially in Haiti.

Leader: God of life,

We thank you for the signs of your light in the midst of our darkness,

May we be signs of your compassion in the heart of your world in these trying times.

All: Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

i. ***Prayer for the children, youth and adults who perished***

On this day, our prayer is one of remembrance:

We remember that those who perished in the earthquake in Haiti, more than numbers,
more than statistics, More valuable than sparrows;

Each was a person of sacred worth created in the image of God.

All: In the aftermath of this terrible tragedy, we are comforted by the knowledge that the same God who knows when a sparrow falls to the ground knew and loved each of those who died.

Leader: Loving God, We pause to remember the untold numbers of individuals who perished recently. They were people who belonged to cities and villages, communities and places of worship. With their friends and families we pause to remember that you gave them life and loved them. In our present helpless state, we are comforted to know that you know each person by name. Lord, have mercy upon this earth and all who mourn on this day. Amen.

ii. ***Prayer for the family members who survived***

On this day we lift our prayer for all who survived, those who lost loved ones and face the terrible responsibility to keep on living in the midst of death, to keep on loving in the midst of loss, to find a way to have a funeral in the midst of chaos — when the bodies of loved ones may never be recovered.

All: In the aftermath of this tragedy, we find comfort in the knowledge that no child of God is unknown and that no child of God is alone, therefore we pray with confidence for those who survive, children without parents, parents without children, spouses missing, loved ones lost, families torn apart.

Leader: Loving God, We pause to remember the untold thousands of family members who grieve. With their friends and families we affirm that you gave them life and loved them. In our present helpless state, we are comforted by the fact that you know each person by name. Lord, have mercy upon all who mourn — in Haiti and around the world. Amen.

iii. ***Prayer for those of us who are able to help — individuals, churches, cities, and nations.***

Today, we pray for ourselves and all those with power to help — those individuals, churches, cities and nations entrusted with the resources needed to relieve suffering, sustain life and rebuild the property that has been destroyed.

All: Let us pray for eyes that are open to see what Jesus sees,
ears that are open to truly hear,
hearts that are open to love as Christ loved,

and lives that respond to our neighbor
and the least of these who are members of his family.

Leader: Loving God, We remember that we are stewards
of the manifold resources you have entrusted to us.
We are people who belong to families, churches, cities and nations
just like those who perished. With their friends and families
we pause to give thanks that you gave them life and that you loved them. We give you
thanks that in this present moment we are not entirely helpless—we believe that prayer
does make a difference.

So let us now pray, in confidence, the prayer that Jesus taught us...

Our Father...

Gracious God, guide our prayer, open our hearts
and empower our acts of compassion and justice
that suffering might be relieved, villages rebuilt, and lives restored.
Bless our acts of obedience that in some small way, we might be used
to restore hope, and increase faith,
and widen the pathway to peace — as we offer our prayer
in the name of your Son,
our Savior, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

Marked with the sign of Jesus Christ in baptism
we accept the freedom and power God gives
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression,
to do good to all people, especially to the least of these — God's children.

Go forth in the freedom and power of the Holy Spirit
to live our prayer in active obedience.
Continue to pray for those who were lost,
for those who grieve,
and for those in positions to help.
Together in this human family, let us find ways to act in love toward them.

All: We are sent in Christ's name.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.
Amen.