

Meditative prayers of Intercession for use during the Coronavirus pandemic

Each of these intercessions begins with an echo from one of the Psalms (slightly adapted in some cases) in order to root our prayer in Scripture and find inspiration there.

Trusting in God's care for his children,
we pray in the name of Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

For those who are sick

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

Psalm 36:5

We pray for those who are unwell due to the coronavirus:
in your compassion, grant them strength and healing.
[We pray especially for N.]

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For our health workers

In the day of trouble you answer us, O Lord, and you protect us;
you send us help and give us support.

Psalm 20:1-2

We pray for all who minister to the sick throughout our health service,
that they may renew their strength in you
and be channels of restoration and renewal for those who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For the anxious

You are near to the broken-hearted, O Lord,
and you save the crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34:18

We pray for all who are anxious about loved ones, friends and neighbours:
enable them to trust in you and be steadfast in hope.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For the lonely and the isolated

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me.

Psalm 23:4

We pray for all those who feel isolated or alone,
that they may experience your loving presence.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For the strong and the vulnerable

Lord, you raise the poor and lift the needy.

Psalm 113:7

We pray that you would inspire those who are strong
to care for the vulnerable
and to serve them in love.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For the Church

How can we sing your song, O Lord, in these strange times?

(cf. Psalm 137:4)

We pray for your Church who longs to praise you
throughout this strange and confusing time;
through your creative Spirit
fire our imaginations to proclaim your unchanging love in new ways.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For those in authority

We cast our burden upon you, O Lord,
and you sustain us.

Psalm 55:22

We pray for all in authority who face difficult decisions
that affect the lives of many;
grant them wisdom and courage.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For those engaged in research

O Lord, you are great and abundant in power;
your understanding is beyond measure

Psalm 147:5

We pray for all engaged in research,
who are seeking to develop a vaccine and remedies for coronavirus:
grant them wisdom, understanding and effectiveness in their endeavours.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For traders and employees

Lord, you are our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?
You are the stronghold of our life; of whom shall we be afraid?

Psalm 27:1

We pray for traders and employees who are fearful of the future,
that businesses may be secured, jobs protected and families supported.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For those who face hardship

The eyes of all look to you
and you give them their food in due season.

Psalm 145:15

We pray for all those facing financial hardship
that you would support and sustain them.
We remember also those who seek to fulfil Christ's command to love one another
through the work of foodbanks and charities
and through acts of simple kindness.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For those in education

Lord, you give strength to your people
and you bless them with peace.

Psalm 29:11

We pray for all in education at this uncertain time:
inspire those who feel bored or directionless,
protect the vulnerable
and give fresh hope to the dismayed.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For the departed

Lord, you show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 16:11

With sadness, we remember those who have lost their lives due to the coronavirus
[in particular N.].

Give us thankful hearts for the privilege of knowing them
and strengthen our faith in your Son who died for us
and rose again in glory
that we might share in his victorious life.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

For the grieving

O God, for you alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from you.
You alone are my rock, my salvation and my fortress.

Psalm 62:5-6

We pray for those who weep and mourn,
that they may find comfort and hope in you.

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

Closing prayer

Lord of life,
in this time of crisis for our families and communities,
our nation and our world,
we turn to you in faith,
to seek your guidance
and receive your blessing,
knowing that nothing in all creation can separate us from your love
made known to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
We ask this in the name of him
who took our infirmities and bore our diseases,
who suffered the cross and rose again triumphant,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

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