

## PRAYER FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

Let us pray,  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be present with us, during experiences of disasters, O God.  
Be with us during periods of far-reaching pain, dear Jesus.  
We grieve the suffering of people from impacts that occur suddenly.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up to you each person in pain,  
We lift up to you the reverberations of horrific news stories  
that affect all of us.  
For we are connected as a people,  
and grief following disasters touches us all.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Engage our imaginations and move our hearts to compassion, O Lord,  
that we would interact with the news  
as the stories of our beloved siblings in Christ,  
flesh and blood, divine image-bearers, irreplaceable individuals  
whose losses will leave known absences in homes, friendships, workplaces,  
churches, schools, organizations, and neighborhoods.  
Be merciful to the wounded.  
Be present with the bereaved.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You do not run from our brokenness, O God.  
You move ever toward those in need.  
Your heart is always inclined toward those who suffer.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Now let your mercies be active  
through the hands, the words, and the compassionate care  
of those who willingly enter places of sadness, to console and to serve.  
Be with all who move toward this need:  
the helpers, the counselors, the first responders,  
those who offer aid and protection,

the pastors, the church administrators, the youth directors,  
the elders, the deacons, the volunteers  
the people who serve food in the kitchen,  
the people who repair church facilities,  
the people who pray ceaselessly for others,  
the presbytery disaster response teams,  
the volunteers who serve on Long Term Recovery Groups funding unmet  
needs,  
the Synod of the Sun Partnership for Disaster Recovery.  
Be with those who meet immediate practical needs,  
those who seek to heal physical wounds,  
and who come after, to carry the long hard work  
of rebuilding families and hearts and lives and community.

Grant all of us wisdom, courage, vision, sympathy and strength,  
to serve effectively in our various capacities.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even in the shadow of such tragedy,  
let us not lose hope.  
Sweep us up in the rapid movements of mercy,  
breathing love into newly wounded spaces.

Help us recognize echoes of your own mercy and compassion –  
Resurrect us with hope for your coming presence.  
Move our hearts, O Lord, to your rhythms,  
Equipping us to prepare, to respond, and to help aid recovery,  
For any disaster that may come.

Hold us, Holy Spirit, in the midst of tragedy.  
Move us, Holy Spirit, in the aftermath of tragedy,  
Heal us, Holy Spirit, of our wounds.  
And carry us into hope.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen.**

Prayer adapted from: “A Liturgy Grieving a National Tragedy” from *Every Moment Holy* v. 2 by Douglas McKelvey (2020)