



**SPIRITUAL
CARE
COMPANION
FOR TIMES OF
DISASTER**

LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass
against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory
Forever and ever. *Amen.*

.....

Martin Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have kept me this night from
all harm and danger; and I pray that
You would keep me this day also from
sin and every evil, that all my doings
and life may please You. For into Your
hands I commend myself, my body
and soul, and all things. Let Your holy
angel be with me, that the evil foe may
have no power over me. *Amen.*

.....

Martin Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have graciously kept me this
day; and I pray that You would forgive
me all my sins where I have done
wrong, and graciously keep me this
night. For into Your hands I commend
myself, my body and soul, and all
things. Let Your holy angel be with me,
that the evil foe may have no power
over me. *Amen.*

A Simple Order of Prayer:

I. Invocation

*In the name of the Father,
and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit.*

II. Hymn may be spoken or sung

III. Scripture reading

IV. Meditation on God's Word

V. Apostles' Creed may be confessed

VI. Prayer (Lord's Prayer and/or other prayers)

VII. Concluding Prayer and/or Blessing

*The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord make His face to shine
on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favor
and give us peace.*

Or

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on
you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with
favor and give you peace.*

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SPIRITUAL CARE COMPANION FOR TIMES OF DISASTER

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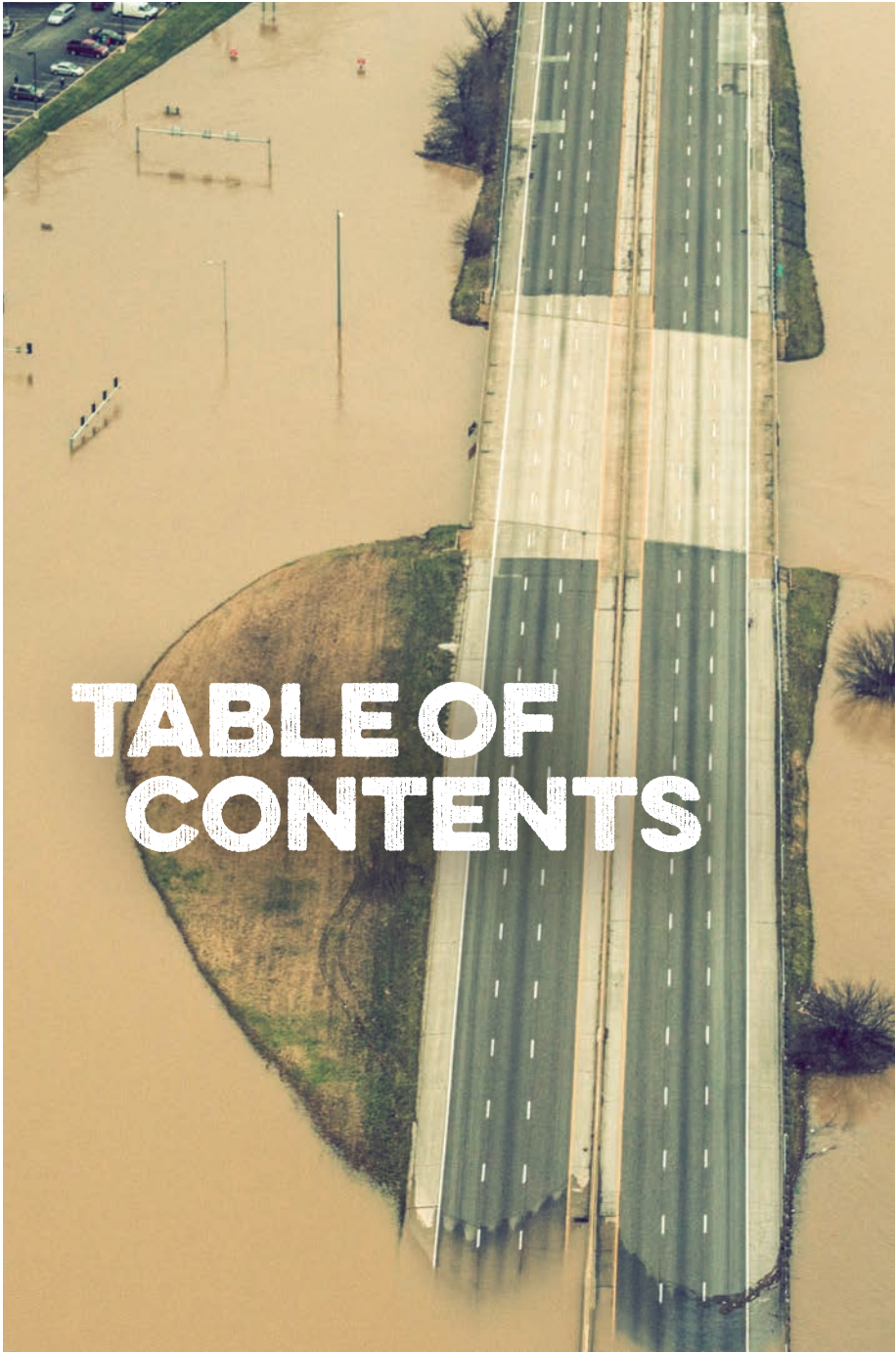


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COMFORT FROM GOD'S WORD

Underneath us are God's everlasting arms

“Your bars shall be iron and bronze,
and as your days, so shall your
strength be.

“There is none like God, O Jeshurun,
who rides through the heavens to
your help, through the skies in
his majesty.

The eternal God is your dwelling
place, and underneath are the
everlasting arms.

And he thrust out the enemy before
you and said, “Destroy!”
(DEUT. 33:25–27).

I know that my Redeemer lives

“Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed
in a book!

Oh that with an iron pen and
lead they were engraved in the
rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon
the earth.

And after my skin has been thus
destroyed, yet in my flesh I
shall see God,

whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold,
and not another.

My heart faints within me!”
(JOB 19:23–27).

Answer me when I call, O God!

“Answer me when I call,
O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when
I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear
my prayer!

“O men, how long shall my honor
be turned into shame?

How long will you love vain
words and seek after lies? *Selah*
But know that the LORD has set apart
the godly for himself; the LORD
hears when I call to him” (PS. 4:1–3).

In peace I will lie down and sleep

“In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me
dwell in safety” (PS. 4:8).

Let all who take refuge in You rejoice

“Give ear to my words, O LORD;
consider my groaning.

Give attention to the sound of my cry,
my King and my God,
for to you do I pray.

O LORD, in the morning you hear my
voice; in the morning I prepare a
sacrifice for you and watch.

For you are not a God who delights
in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you ...

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them ever sing for joy,
and spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may
exult in you.

For you bless the righteous, O LORD;
you cover him with favor as with a
shield” (PS. 5:1–4, 11–12).

O Lord, deliver my life

“O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath.

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am
languishing; heal me, O LORD, for
my bones are troubled.

My soul also is greatly troubled.
But you, O LORD — how long?

“Turn, O LORD, deliver my life;
save me for the sake of your
steadfast love.
For in death there is no remembrance
of you; in Sheol who will give
you praise?”

“I am weary with my moaning;
every night I flood my bed with tears;
I drench my couch with my weeping.
My eye wastes away because of grief;
it grows weak because of all my foes.

“Depart from me, all you workers of evil,
for the LORD has heard the sound of
my weeping.

The LORD has heard my plea;
the LORD accepts my prayer.
All my enemies shall be ashamed and
greatly troubled; they shall turn back
and be put to shame in a moment”
(PSALM 6).

The Lord is my Shepherd

“The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down
in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the
LORD forever” (PSALM 23).

The Lord is my stronghold

“The LORD is my light and my
salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?” (PS. 27:1).

He will hide me in the shelter in the day of trouble

“Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

“One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the
LORD all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.

“For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover
of his tent; he will lift me high
upon a rock.

“And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to
the LORD.

“Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!
You have said, ‘Seek my face.’
My heart says to you,
‘Your face, LORD, do I seek.’
Hide not your face from me.

“Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!
For my father and my mother
have forsaken me,
but the LORD will take me in.

“Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
Give me not up to the will of my
adversaries; for false witnesses have
risen against me, and they breathe
out violence.

“I believe that I shall look upon the
goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!
Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take
courage; wait for the LORD!”
(PS. 27:3-14).

Into your hand I commit my spirit

“In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!
Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily!
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!
“For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name’s sake you lead
me and guide me;
you take me out of the net they have
hidden for me, for you are my refuge.
Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD,
faithful God” (PS. 31:1-5).

Be still and wait patiently for the Lord

“Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend
faithfulness.
Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of
your heart.
“Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will bring forth your righteousness
as the light, and your justice as

the noonday.
“Be still before the LORD and wait
patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who
prosper in his way” (PS. 37:3-7A).

God heals the sick

“Blessed is the one who considers the
poor! In the day of trouble the LORD
delivers him;
the LORD protects him and keeps him
alive; he is called blessed in the land;
you do not give him up to the will of
his enemies.
The LORD sustains him on his sickbed;
in his illness you restore him to
full health.

“As for me, I said, ‘O LORD, be gracious
to me; heal me, for I have sinned
against you!’
My enemies say of me in malice, ‘When
will he die, and his name perish?’
And when one comes to see me,
he utters empty words,
while his heart gathers iniquity;
when he goes out, he tells it abroad.
All who hate me whisper together
about me; they imagine the worst
for me.

“They say, ‘A deadly thing is poured
out on him; he will not rise again
from where he lies.’
Even my close friend in whom I
trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted
his heel against me.
But you, O LORD, be gracious to
me, and raise me up, that I may
repay them!
“By this I know that you delight in me:
my enemy will not shout in triumph
over me.
But you have upheld me because of
my integrity, and set me in your
presence forever.

“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!
Amen and Amen” (PSALM 41).

I shall again praise God

“As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and appear
before God?
My tears have been my food
day and night,
while they say to me all the day long,
‘Where is your God?’
These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I would go with the throng
and lead them in procession to the
house of God
with glad shouts and songs of praise,
a multitude keeping festival.
Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil
within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise
him, my salvation and my God.
My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you”
(PS. 43:1-6).

God is our refuge and strength

“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though
the earth gives way, though the
mountains be moved into the heart
of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at
its swelling. *Selah*
“There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God, the holy habita-
tion of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall

not be moved; God will help her
when morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Selah

“Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on
the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of
the earth; he breaks the bow and
shatters the spear; he burns the
chariots with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Selah” (PSALM 46).

God is my fortress

“For God alone, O my soul, wait in
silence, for my hope is from him.
He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
On God rests my salvation and my
glory; my mighty rock, my refuge
is God.

“Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. *Selah*”
(PS. 62:5-8).

In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord

“I cry aloud to God,
aloud to God, and he will hear me.
In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
in the night my hand is stretched
out without wearying;
my soul refuses to be comforted.
When I remember God, I moan;
when I meditate, my spirit faints.
Selah

“You hold my eyelids open;
I am so troubled that I cannot speak.
I consider the days of old,
the years long ago.
I said, ‘Let me remember my song
in the night;
let me meditate in my heart.’
Then my spirit made a diligent search:
‘Will the Lord spurn forever,
and never again be favorable?
Has his steadfast love forever ceased?
Are his promises at an end for all time?
Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has he in anger shut up his
compassion?’ *Selah*

“Then I said, ‘I will appeal to this,
to the years of the right hand
of the Most High.’

“I will remember the deeds of the LORD;
yes, I will remember your wonders
of old.
I will ponder all your work,
and meditate on your mighty deeds.
Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is great like our God?
You are the God who works wonders;
you have made known your might
among the peoples.
You with your arm redeemed your
people, the children of Jacob
and Joseph. *Selah*

“When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you,
they were afraid;
indeed, the deep trembled.
The clouds poured out water;
the skies gave forth thunder;
your arrows flashed on every side.
The crash of your thunder was in
the whirlwind;
your lightnings lighted up the world;
the earth trembled and shook.
Your way was through the sea,
your path through the great waters;

yet your footprints were unseen.
You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron”
(PSALM 77).

Lord, You have been our dwelling place

“Lord, you have been our dwelling
place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought
forth, or ever you had formed the
earth and the world, from everlasting
to everlasting you are God.

“You return man to dust and say,
‘Return, O children of man!’
For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

“You sweep them away as with a flood;
they are like a dream, like grass that
is renewed in the morning:
in the morning it flourishes and is
renewed; in the evening it fades
and withers.

“For we are brought to an end by
your anger; by your wrath we
are dismayed.
You have set our iniquities before
you, our secret sins in the light of
your presence.

“For all our days pass away under your
wrath; we bring our years to an end
like a sigh.
The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear
of you?

“So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
Return, O LORD! How long?

Have pity on your servants!
Satisfy us in the morning with your
steadfast love, that we may rejoice
and be glad all our days.
Make us glad for as many days as you
have afflicted us, and for as many
years as we have seen evil.
Let your work be shown to your
servants, and your glorious power to
their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be
upon us, and establish the work of
our hands upon us; yes, establish the
work of our hands!” (PSALM 90).

His Angels will guard you in the battle

“He who dwells in the shelter of the
Most High will abide in the shadow
of the Almighty.
I will say to the LORD, ‘My refuge and
my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’
“For he will deliver you from the snare
of the fowler and from the deadly
pestilence.
He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find
refuge; his faithfulness is a shield
and buckler.
You will not fear the terror of the
night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in dark-
ness, nor the destruction that wastes
at noonday.
A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
You will only look with your
eyes and see the recompense
of the wicked.
Because you have made the LORD your
dwelling place — the Most High,
who is my refuge —
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.

“For he will command his angels
concerning you to guard you in all
your ways.
On their hands they will bear you
up, lest you strike your foot against
a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the
adder; the young lion and the
serpent you will trample underfoot.
“Because he holds fast to me in love, I
will deliver him; I will protect him,
because he knows my name.
When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation”
(PSALM 91).

The Lord is forever

“Hear my prayer, O LORD;
let my cry come to you!
Do not hide your face from me
in the day of my distress!
Incline your ear to me; answer me
speedily in the day when I call!
“For my days pass away like smoke,
and my bones burn like a furnace.
My heart is struck down like grass
and has withered; I forget to eat
my bread.
Because of my loud groaning
my bones cling to my flesh”
(PS. 102:1-5).

My help comes from the Lord

“I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
“He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on
your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forever-
more” (PSALM 121).

Out of the depths, I cry to You

“Out of the depths I cry to you,
O LORD!
O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
“If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.
“I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.
“O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is
steadfast love, and with him is
plentiful redemption.
And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities” (PSALM 130).

He will swallow up death forever

“On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will make for all peoples a feast of
rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged
wine well refined.
And he will swallow up on this
mountain the covering that is cast
over all peoples, the veil that is

spread over all nations. He will
swallow up death forever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears
from all faces, and the reproach of
his people he will take away from all
the earth, for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
‘Behold, this is our God; we have
waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the Lord; we have waited for
him; let us be glad and rejoice in his
salvation” (IS. 25:6-9).

The word of God stands forever

“A voice says, ‘Cry!’
And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower
of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows
on it; surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand
forever” (IS. 40:6-8).

He will swallow up death forever

“You are my servant,
I have chosen you and not cast
you off’;
fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous
right hand” (IS. 41:9-10).

God’s activity in history reveals His power

“Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to
Cyrus, whose right hand
I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:

'I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the
LORD, the God of Israel, who call
you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name, I name you,
though you do not know me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not
know me,
that people may know, from the rising
of the sun
and from the west, that there is none
besides me; I am the LORD, and
there is no other.
I form light and create darkness;
I make well-being and create
calamity; I am the LORD, who
does all these things.
"Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain down
righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and
righteousness may bear fruit; let the
earth cause them both to sprout;
I the LORD have created it.
"Woe to him who strives with him
who formed him, a pot among
earthen pots!
Does the clay say to him who forms it,
"What are you making?" or
"Your work has no handles?"
Woe to him who says to a father,
"What are you begetting?"
or to a woman, "With what are
you in labor?"
Thus says the LORD,

the Holy One of Israel, and the one
who formed him:
'Ask me of things to come;
will you command me concerning
my children and the work of
my hands?
I made the earth
and created man on it;
it was my hands that stretched out
the heavens, and I commanded all
their host'" (IS. 45:1-12).

Remembering the Lord's compassion

"Remember my affliction and my
wanderings, the wormwood and
the gall!
My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me.
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 your 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 who seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.
It is good for a man that he bear
the yoke in his youth"
(LAM. 3:19-27).
"For the Lord will not
cast off forever,
but, though he cause grief, he will have
compassion according to the abun-
dance of his steadfast love;
for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men"
(LAM. 3:31-33).

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest’ (MATT. 9:35–38).

I will give you rest

“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” (MATT. 11:28–30).

A bruised reed He will not break

“A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory” (MATT. 12:20).

Jesus feeds the hungry

“Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, ‘I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.’ And the disciples said to him, ‘Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘How many loaves do you have?’ They said, ‘Seven, and a few small fish.’ And directing the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven

loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. And after sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan” (MATT. 15:32–39).

War, famine and earthquakes

“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains” (MATT. 24:6–8).

Take up your cross and follow me

“And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels” (LUKE 9:23–28).

The call to repentance

“There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, ‘Do you think that these

Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (LUKE 13:1-5).

Whoever believes my Word has life

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life” (JOHN 5:24).

Jesus is the Light of the world

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life’” (JOHN 8:12).

I came that they may have life

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (JOHN 10:10).

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand” (JOHN 10:27-29).

I am the Resurrection and the Life

“Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world’” (JOHN 11:17-27).

Let not your hearts be troubled

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” (JOHN 14:1-6).

Suffering produces endurance

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (ROM. 5:1-8).

Just as Christ was raised, we too might walk

“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (ROM. 6:4).

Count yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God

“For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for

unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness” (ROM 6:10-13).

Heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?” (ROM. 8:14-24).

The Spirit of God is with you in suffering

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified” (ROM. 8:18-30).

“For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies” (ROMANS 8:22-23).

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (ROM. 8:26-28).

Nothing will be able to separate us from God's love

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (ROM. 8:31-39).

Comforts us in all of our afflictions

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (2 COR. 1:3-4).

We are given over to death so life in Jesus is manifest

“Always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you” (2 COR. 4:10-12).

Affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 COR. 4:16-18).

Christ is our strength

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2 COR. 12:9).

God chose us in Christ

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight” (EPH. 1:2-8).

Your election in God is sure

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

“In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory” (EPH. 1:3-14).

God supplies your every need

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen” (PHIL. 4:19-20).

May you be strengthened

“So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (COL. 1:10-14).

We do not grieve as others do

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep” (1 THESS. 4:13-14).

The Lord is faithful and will guard you

“But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one” (2 THESS. 3:3).

He saved us according to his own mercy

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works” (TITUS 3:4-8A).

God has chosen the poor

“For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ while you say to the poor man, ‘You stand over there,’ or, ‘Sit down at my

feet, have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court?” (JAMES 2:2-6).

Trials test the faith

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 PETER 1:3-7).

We are born again to a living hope

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice,

though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls”

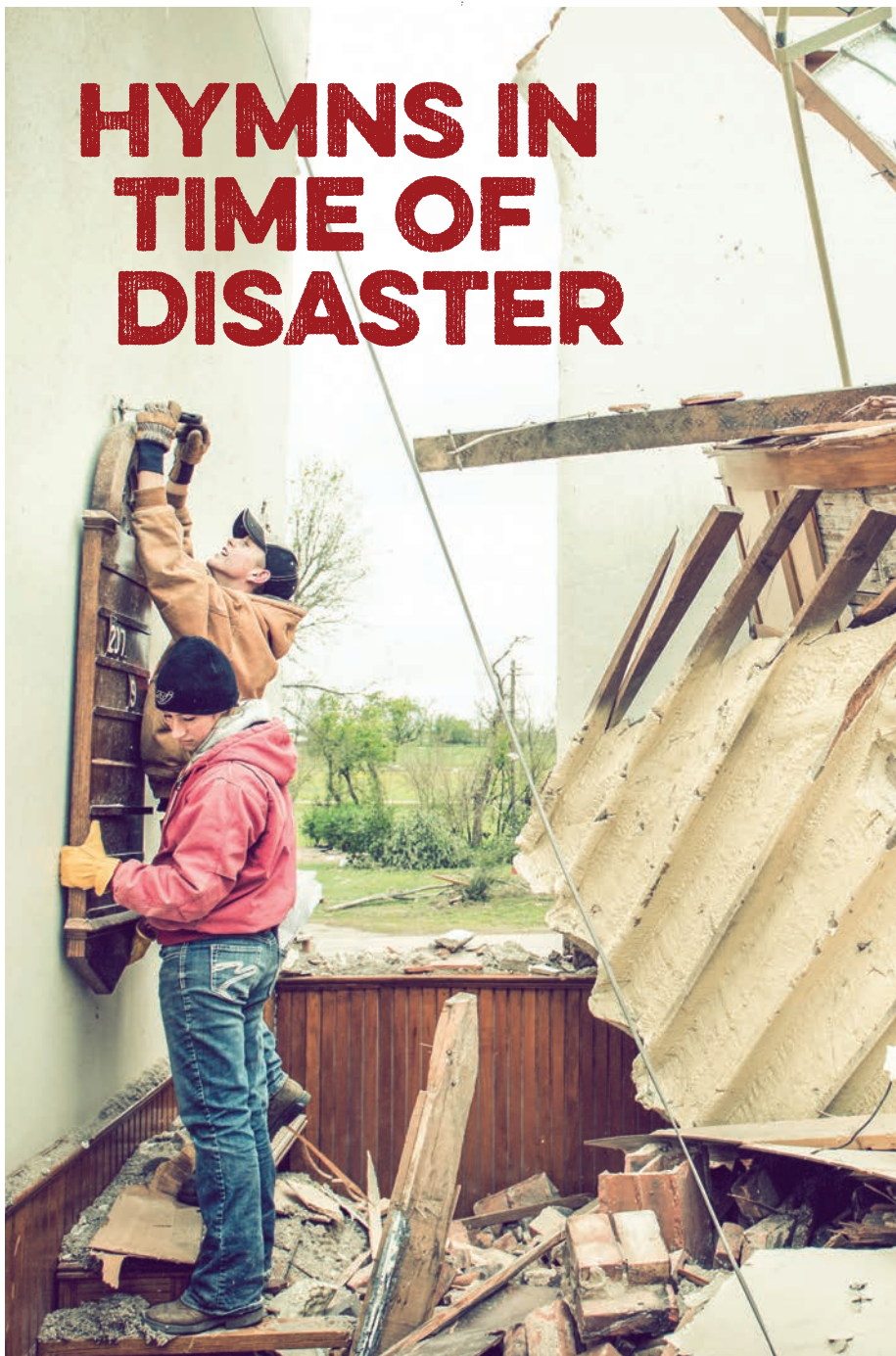
(1 PETER 1:3-9).

Christ shares in your fiery trial

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed”

(1 PETER 4:12-13).

HYMNS IN TIME OF DISASTER



God Loves Me Dearly

1 God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me. **Refrain**

Refrain

Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

2 I was in slav'ry,
Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working
To make me free. **Refrain**

3 He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. **Refrain**

4 Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed. **Refrain**

5 Now I will praise You,
O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You
All my life long. **Refrain**

LSB 392

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

1 Jesus refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended,
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
You have borne the pain of all.

2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,

Though we see You
wounded, bleeding,
See Your thorn encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us
Calms the sinner's deep distress

3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning
To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the cross, the Crucified

LSB 423

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause
disowning, Foes insulting
His distress;
Many hands were raised to
wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that
pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

3 Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,

See who bears the awful load;
‘Tis the Word, the Lord’s anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God

- 4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

LSB 451

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet
sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once
was dead;
He lives my ever living head.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.
- 3 He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.
- 4 He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul’s complaint.
- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind wise,
heav’nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;

He lives, and while He lives, I’ll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest,
and King.

- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives;
I know that my Redeemer lives!

LSB 461

Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won

- 1 Jesus lives! The vict’ry’s won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done!
From the grave will Christ
recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.
- 2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.
- 3 Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.
- 4 Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow’rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

5 Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

LSB 490

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

- 1 Why should cross and trial grieve me?
Christ is near, with His cheer;
Never will He leave me.
Who can rob me of the heaven
That God's Son for my own
To my faith hath given?
- 2 Though a heavy cross I'm bearing
And my heart Feels the smart,
Shall I be despairing?
God, my Helper, who doth send it,
Well doth know All my woe
And how best to end it.
- 3 God oft gives me days of gladness;
Shall I grieve If He give
Seasons, too, of sadness?
God is good and tempers ever
All my ill, And He will
Wholly leave me never.
- 4 Hopeful, cheerful, and undaunted
Ev'ry-where They appear
Who in Christ are planted.
Death itself cannot appal them,
They rejoice When the voice
Of their Lord doth call them.
- 5 Death cannot destroy forever;
From our fears, Cares, and tears
It will us deliver.
It will close life's mournful story,
Make a way That we may
Enter heavenly glory.

6 What is all this life possesses?
But a hand Full of sand
That the heart distresses.
Noble fits that pall me never
Christ, our Lord, Will accord
To His saints forever.

7 Lord, my Shepherd, take me to Thee.
Thou art mine; I was Thine,
Even ere I knew Thee.
I am Thine, for Thou hast bought me;
Lost I stood, But Thy Blood
Free salvation brought me.

8 Thou art mine; I love and own Thee.
Light of Joy, Ne'er shall I
From my heart dethrone Thee.
Savior, let me soon behold Thee
Face to face, May thy grace
Evermore enfold me.

TLH 523

Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion

- 1 Oh, how great is Your compassion,
Faithful Father, God of grace,
That with all our fallen race
In our depth of degradation
You had mercy so that we
Might be saved eternally!
- 2 Your great love for this has striven
That we may, from sin made free,
Live with You eternally.
Your dear Son Himself has given
And extends His gracious call,
To His supper leads us all.
- 3 Firmly to our soul's salvation
Witnesses Your Spirit, Lord,
In Your Sacraments and Word.
There He sends true consolation,
Giving us the gift of faith
That we fear not hell nor death.

4 Lord, Your mercy will not leave me;
Ever will Your truth abide.
Then in You I will confide.
Since your Word cannot deceive me,
My salvation is to me
Safe and sure eternally.

5 I will praise Your great compassion,
Faithful Father, God of grace,
That with all our fallen race
In our depth of degradation
You had mercy so that we
Might be saved eternally.

LSB 559

If Your Beloved Son, O God

- 1 If your beloved Son, O God,
Had not to earth descended
And in our mortal flesh and blood
Had not sin's power ended,
Then this poor, wretched
soul of mine
In hell eternally would pine
Because of my transgression.
- 2 But now I find sweet peace and rest;
Despair no more reigns o'er me.
No more am I by sin oppressed,
For Christ has borne sin for me.
Upon the cross for me He died
That, reconciled, I might abide
With You, my God, forever.
- 3 I trust in Him with all my heart;
Now all my sorrow ceases.
His words abiding peace impart;
His blood from guilt releases.
Free grace through Him
I now obtain;
He washes me from ev'ry stain,
And pure I stand before him.
- 4 All righteousness by works is vain;
The Law brings condemnation.
True righteousness by faith I gain;

Christ's work is my salvation.
His death, that perfect sacrifice,
Has paid the all sufficient price;
In Him my hope is anchored.

- 5 My guilt, O Father, you have laid
On Christ, Your Son, my Savior.
Lord Jesus, You my debt have paid
And gained for me God's favor.
O Holy Spirit, Fount of grace,
The good in me to You I trace;
In faith and hope preserve me.

LSB 568

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

- 2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.

Refrain

- 3 His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain

- 4 When He shall come with
trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before
His throne!

Refrain

LSB 575/576

I Know My Faith Is Founded

- 1 I know my faith is founded
On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;
And this my faith confessing,
Unmoved I stand on His sure Word.
Our reason cannot fathom
The truth of God profound;
Who trusts in human wisdom
Relies on shifting ground.
God's Word is all sufficient,
It makes divinely sure;
And trusting in its wisdom,
My faith shall rest secure.
- 2 Increase my faith, dear Savior,
For Satan seeks by night and day
To rob me of this treasure
And take my hope of bliss away.
But, Lord, with You beside me,
I shall be un dismayed;
And led by Your good Spirit,
I shall be unafraid.
Abide with me, O Savior,
A firmer faith bestow;
Then I shall bid defiance
To ev'ry evil foe.
- 3 In faith, Lord, let me serve You;
Though persecution, grief, and pain
Should seek to overwhelm me,
Let me a steadfast trust retain;
And then at my departure,
Lord, take me home to You,
Your riches to inherit
As all You said holds true.
In life and death, Lord, keep me
Until Your heav'n I gain,
Where I by Your great mercy
The end of faith attain.

LSB 587

Jesus Loves Me

- 1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
Refrain

- 2 Jesus Loves me! He who died
Heavens gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin,
Lets His little child come in.
Refrain

Refrain:

- Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so!

LSB 588

When in the Hour of Deepest Need

- 1 When in the hour of deepest need
We know not where to look for aid;
When days and nights of
anxious thought
No help or counsel yet have brought,
- 2 Then is our comfort this alone
That we may meet before
Your throne;
To You, O faithful God, we cry
For rescue in our misery.
- 3 For You have promised, Lord, to heed
Your children's cries in time of need
Through Him whose name alone
is great,
Our Savior and our advocate.
- 4 And so we come, O God, today
And all our woes before You lay;
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,
Perplexed by fears on ev'ry hand.

5 O from our sins, Lord, turn
Your face;
Absolve us through Your
boundless grace.
Be with us in our anguish still;
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

6 So we with all our hearts each day
To You our glad thanksgiving pay,
Then walk obedient to Your Word,
And now and ever praise You, Lord.

LSB 615

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from
Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r
make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

LSB 655

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

2 With might of ours can naught
be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

3 Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not over pow'r us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

4 The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

LSB 656

Let Me Be Thine Forever

1 Let me be Thine forever,
My faithful God and Lord;
Let me forsake Thee never
Nor wander from Thy Word.
Lord, do not let me waver,
But give me steadfast ness,
And for such grace forever
Thy holy name I'll bless.

2 Lord Jesus, my salvation,
My light, my life divine,
My only consolation,

O make me wholly Thine!
For Thou hast dearly bought me
With blood and bitter pain.
Let me, since Thou hast sought me,
Eternal life obtain.

- 3 And Thou, O Holy Spirit,
My comforter and guide,
Grant that in Jesus' merit
I always may confide,
Him to the end confessing
Whom I have known by faith.
Give me Thy constant blessing
And grant a Christian death.

LSB 689

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

- 1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,
With tender mercy cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share.
Yea, heav'n' itself were void and bear
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for
sorrow break,
My trust in Thee can nothing shake.
Thou art the portion I have sought;
Thy precious blood my soul
has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ,
my God and Lord, my God and Lord
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.
- 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave
My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify Thy lavish grace
And help and serve my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile;
Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me
To bear my cross and follow Thee.
Lord Jesus Christ,
my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
In death Thy comfort still afford.

- 3 Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,
That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me,
That these mine eyes with joy
may see,
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ,
my prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

LSB 708

I Leave All Things to God's Direction

- 1 I leave all things to God's direcion;
He loves me both in joy and woe.
His will is good, sure His affection;
His tender love is true, I know.
My fortress and my rock is He:
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 2 God knows what must be done to
save me;
His love for me will never cease.
Upon His hands He did engrave me
With purest gold of loving grace.
His will supreme must ever be:
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 3 My God desires the soul's salvation;
My soul He, too, desires to save.
Therefore with Christian resignation
All earthly troubles I will brave.
His will be done eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 4 My God has all things in
His keeping;
He is the ever faithful friend.
He gives me laughter after weeping,

And all His ways in blessings end.
His love endures eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

LSB 719

If God Himself Be for Me

- 1 If God Himself be for me,
I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master,
Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
Can drive me from His love?
- 2 I build on this foundation,
That Jesus and His blood
Alone are my salvation,
My true, eternal good.
Without Him all that pleases
Is valueless on earth;
The gifts I have from Jesus
Alone have priceless worth.
- 3 Christ Jesus is my splendor,
My sun, my light, alone;
Were He not my defender
Before God's judgment throne,
I never should find favor
And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever
As darkness by the light.
- 4 He canceled my offenses,
Delivered me from death;
He is the Lord who cleanses
My soul from sin through faith.
In Him I can be cheerful,
Courageous on my way;
In Him I am not fearful
Of God's great Judgment Day.
- 5 For no one can condemn me
Or set my hope aside;
Now hell no more can claim me:

Its fury I deride.
No sentence now reproves me,
No guilt destroys my peace;
For Christ, my Savior, loves me
And shields me with His Grace

- 6 Who clings with resolution
To Him whom Satan hates
Must look for persecution;
For him the burden waits
Of mock'ry, shame, and losses
Heaped on his blameless head;
A thousand plagues and crosses
Will be his daily bread.
- 7 From me this is not hidden,
Yet I am not afraid:
I leave my cares, as bidden,
To whom my vows were paid.
Though life from me be taken
And ev'rything I own,
I trust in You unshaken
And cleave to You alone.
- 8 No danger, thirst, or hunger,
No pain or poverty,
No earthly tyrant's anger
Shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder,
My fortress You shall be;
No fire or sword or thunder
Shall sever You from me.
- 9 No angel and no gladness,
No throne, no pomp, no show,
No love, no hate, no sadness,
No pain, no depth of woe,
No scheming, no contrivance,
No subtle thing or great
Shall draw me from Your guidance
Nor from You separate.
- 10 My heart with joy is springing;
I am no longer sad.
My soul is filled with singing;

Your sunshine makes me glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit
Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n' I shall inherit
Makes me rejoice and sing.

LSB 724

Evening and Morning

1 Evening and morning,
Sunset and dawning,
Wealth, peace, and gladness,
Comfort in sadness:
These are Thy works;
all the glory be Thine!
Times without number,
Awake or in slumber,
Thine eye observes us,
From danger preserves us,
Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.

2 Father, O hear me,
Pardon and spare me;
Calm all my terrors,
Blot out my errors
That by Thine eyes they may no
more be scanned.
Order my goings,
Direct all my doings;
As it may please Thee,
Retain or release me;
All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.

LSB 726

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!

2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,

From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

LSB 733

I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name

1 I trust, O Lord, Your holy name;
O let me not be put to shame
Nor let me be confounded.
My faith, O Lord, Be in Your Word
Forever firmly grounded.

2 Bow down Your gracious ear to me
And hear my cry, my prayer, my plea;
Make haste for my protection,
For woes and fear Surround me here.
Help me in my affliction.

3 You are my strength, my shield,
my rock,
My fortress that withstands
each shock,
My help, my life, my tower,
My battle sword, Almighty Lord,
Who can resist Your power?

4 With You, O Lord, I cast my lot;
O faithful God, forsake me not,
To You my soul commending.
Lord, be my stay, And lead the way
Now and when life is ending.

5 All honor, praise, and majesty
To Father, Son, and Spirit be,
Our God forever glorious,
In whose rich grace We run our race
Till we depart victorious.

LSB 734

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

1 I am Jesus' little lamb,
Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my needs and well
provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

2 Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.

3 Who so happy as I am,
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast,
There within His arms to rest.

LSB 740

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

1 Jesus Christ, my sure defense
And my Savior, now is living!
Knowing this, my confidence
Rests upon the hope here given,
Though the night of death be fraught
Still with many an anxious thought.

2 Jesus, my Redeemer lives;
Likewise, I to life shall waken.
He will bring me where He is;
Shall my courage then be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the Head
Rise and leave His members dead?

3 No, too closely I am bound
By my hope to Christ forever;
Faith's strong hand the Rock
has found,
Grasped it, and will leave it never;
Even death now cannot part
From its Lord the trusting heart.

4 I am flesh and must return
To the dust, whence I am taken;
But by faith I now discern
That from death I shall awaken
With my Savior to abide
In His glory, at His side.

5 Glorified, I shall anew
With this flesh then be enshrouded;
In this body I shall view
God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
In this flesh I then shall see
Jesus Christ eternally.

6 Then take comfort and rejoice,
For His members Christ will cherish.
Fear not, they will hear His voice;
Dying, they will never perish;
For the very grave is stirred
When the trumpet's blast is heard.

7 Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave
And at death no longer tremble;
He, the Lord, who came to save
Will at last His own assemble.
They will go their Lord to meet,
Treading death beneath their feet.

8 O, then, draw away your hearts
From all pleasures base and hollow;
Strive to share what He imparts
While you here His footsteps follow.
As you now still wait to rise,
Fix your hearts beyond the skies.

LSB 741

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

- 1 Jesus, priceless treasure,
Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me,
Ah, how long in anguish
Shall my spirit languish,
Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide Thee;
Naught I ask beside Thee.
- 2 In Thine arms I rest me;
Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
Ev'ry heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;
Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.
- 3 Satan, I defy thee;
Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me
Nor thy threats alarm me
While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore Him,
Silent bow before Him.
- 4 Hence, all earthly treasure!
Jesus is my pleasure,
Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory!
Naught to me thy story
Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross,
Shall not from my Savior move me
Since He deigns to love me.
- 5 Evil world, I leave thee;
Thou canst not deceive me,
Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me,

Get thee far behind me,
Come not forth again.
Past thy hour, O pride and pow'r
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.

- 6 Hence, all fears and sadness!
For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

LSB 743

Amazing Grace

- 1 Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils,
and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.
- 5 When we've been there ten
thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

LSB 744

In God, My Faithful God

- 1 In God, my faithful God,
I trust when dark my road;
Great woes may overtake me,
Yet He will not forsake me.
My troubles He can alter;
His hand lets nothing falter.
- 2 My sins fill me with care,
Yet I will not despair.
I build on Christ, who loves me;
From this rock nothing moves me.
To Him I will surrender,
To Him, my soul's defender.
- 3 If death my portion be,
It brings great gain to me;
It speeds my life's endeavor
To live with Christ forever.
He gives me joy in sorrow,
Come death now or tomorrow.
- 4 O Jesus Christ, my Lord,
So meek in deed and word,
You suffered death to save us
Because Your love would have us
Be heirs of heav'nly gladness
When ends this life of sadness.
- 5 "So be it," then, I say
With my heart each day.
Dear Lord, we all adore You,
We sing for joy before You.
Guide us while here we wander
Until we praise You yonder.

LSB 745

Be Still, My Soul

- 1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on
your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief
or pain;
Leave to your God to order and
provide;

In ev'ry change He faithful
will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your
heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a
joyful end.

- 2 Be still, my soul; your God
will undertake
To guide the future as He has
the past.
Your hope, your confidence let
nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright
at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds
still know
His voice who ruled them while He
dwelt below.
- 3 Be still, my soul; though dearest
friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale
of tears;
Then you will better know His love,
His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows
and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He
takes away.
- 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is
hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with
the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and
fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest
joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and
tears are past,
All safe and blessèd we shall meet
at last.

LSB 752

Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care

- 1 Lord, it belongs not to my care
Whether I die or live;
To love and serve Thee is my share,
And this Thy grace must give.
- 2 If life be long, I will be glad
That I may long obey;
If short, yet why should I be sad
To soar to endless day?
- 3 Christ leads me through no
darker rooms
Than He went through before;
He that unto God's kingdom comes
Must enter by this door.
- 4 Come, Lord, when grace has
made me meet
Thy blessed face to see;
For if Thy work on earth be sweet,
What will Thy glory be!
- 5 Then shall I end my sad complaints
And weary, sinful days
And join with the triumphant saints
Who sing my Savior's praise.
- 6 My knowledge of that life is small,
The eye of faith is dim;
But 'tis enough that Christ knows all,
And I shall be with Him.

LSB 757

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r
- 2 Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,

All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

LSB 761

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear —
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged —
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness —
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge —
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

LSB 770

Abide with Me

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with
me abide.
When other helpers fail and
comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry
passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the
tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and
stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine,
O abide with me.
- 3 Come not in terrors, as the King
of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in
Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus
abide with me.
- 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's
little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories
pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide
with me.
- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand
to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears
no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave,
thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my
closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point
me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's
vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide
with me.

LSB 878





**PRAYERS FOR
COMFORT, PEACE
AND SPECIFIC
DISASTERS**

Heavenly Father, forgive us when we turn from You and rebel against Your Word and will. Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus our Savior, who lifted the weight of sin and guilt from us and carried that terrible burden in His own body to the cross. When our attention becomes fixed only on the troubles we see before us, turn our hearts to the glory that is unseen, the glory won for us through Jesus' death and resurrection. Comfort us now in our afflictions. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, reign in our hearts with the peace that only You can give. Fill our hearts with the joy and confidence of knowing that You are watching over us day and night. When (*name*) cannot sleep, turn (*his/her*) thoughts toward prayer and the promises of Your Word. Bring to (*his/her*) restless thoughts the certainty of Your love and mercy. When (*name*) does sleep, grant (*him/her*) quiet, healing rest. Keep (*him/her*) safe in Your care so that (*he/she*) might sleep in heavenly peace. *Amen.*

Heavenly Father, when (*name/s*) (*is/are*) trapped in anxiety and fears for the future, comfort them and strengthen their faith through the hope and peace found in Your Holy Word. Turn their attention to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, where they see evidence of Your care for all of creation. Through Christ our Savior You have delivered us from sin and death and have brought us safely into His eternal kingdom. You know our needs and You will provide for them, now and for eternity. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus, in Your death and resurrection You have conquered, and in You we too are conquerors. When we are threatened and frightened of the disasters that we must face, strengthen and encourage us with Your Word. We trust the grip of Your hand and know that nothing can separate us from Your love. *Amen.*

Jesus, Lord of time, when we suffer through long hours of grief or endure swift and painful circumstances, be present with us as You have promised. Lead us to find hope and encouragement in Your Word. Nourish our faith with forgiveness through Your Holy Supper. Comfort us with Your presence when our last hour comes, confident that You will one day call us to arise from our graves to live in Your presence forever. *Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*

Lord Jesus, for us You suffered the desolation of the cross. Be present with us when we are alone and afraid, in an actual place of desolation or in a lonely place within ourselves. Nourish and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Hear our prayers and comfort us, so that we in turn might share Your comfort and hope with others in need. *Amen.*

Storms

Kind and loving Father, Rock of Refuge in every need, remember in mercy all those who have suffered loss through the recent storms. Grant healing to the injured, provide for the needs of all whose property has been damaged, and comfort those who mourn their dead. Use Your people as instruments of Your care in this time and help us all to remember that we are but pilgrims here and that our true home awaits us, prepared for us by the suffering, death, and resurrection of Your Son in whose name we pray. *Amen.*

Storms

Kind and loving Father, remember all those affected by the adverse weather that has befallen our nation. Comfort the grieving, and assist those endangered by fire, flood or storm. Help all first responders to serve with courage and compassion. Guide civic leaders as they direct government services in affected regions. Above all, amid the tumult of these days, help us to trust in Your unfailing love, through Him whose love triumphed over all, even Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Storms

Father of mercy and God of all consolations, to Your loving care we commend the congregation and all who have suffered from the recent devastating storms. As You continually give us reminders that we are but pilgrims here and that our only true and lasting home is with You, strengthen Your people to set their hope fully on the Kingdom of Your Son. In the midst of a world that is shaking, use us as instruments of Your

love, the love that alone is stable and steady and immovable as evidenced by the cross and empty tomb. We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Storm Suffrages

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the victims of this recent tragedy, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring relief, to provide care, to restore order, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For those who have been injured, that they may know God's healing power, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For those who have lost loved ones, that they be given grace to entrust their dead to Him who is the Resurrection and the Life, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For those who have lost possessions and livelihood, that through the love of God's people they would experience restoration and hope for the future, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord:
Amen.

School Shooting

Lord, have mercy. There has been yet another campus mass shooting at [*name of school*]:

Gracious God, heavenly Father, You alone know all the shock and sorrow of the unfolding events of this day.

Mercifully embrace the frightened in
Your love, empower the weak with
Your strength, and restrain the wicked
by Your might. We commend to Your
keeping all who work to bring rescue
and relief. Give them courage in danger,
skill in difficulty, and compassion
in service. Sustain them with bodily
strength and calmness especially as they
attend to those families who mourn the
loss of loved ones; through Jesus Christ,
Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Mass Shooting/Terror Attack

Father of mercy, God of all comfort,
we beg Your presence and peace with
all affected by this shooting situation
in [*name of city*]. Bring healing to the
injured and bless those who are seeking
to restore order. Bring an end to the
violence in our land and throughout
the world. We ask it in the name of
Jesus, our Prince of Peace. *Amen.*

Holy Father, God of mercy, God of
comfort, as the darkness grows and
hatred and violence seem to triumph
in this world, embrace in Your tender
compassion all who suffer from this
latest terror attack. Remember all who
have lost loved ones, and the many
who are injured and dying. Grant to
them Your mercy, Your healing, Your
peace. This week we remember that in
Your Son You have given to us the love
that no hatred can overcome, the life
that no death can destroy, the forgive-
ness that exceeds all the violence that
fallen humanity inflicts upon itself.
Make Your Church a firm witness to
this unflinching hope. We pray these
things in the saving name of Jesus
Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Tornado Community

For the people who are suffering
as a result of tornadoes that ripped
through [*name the affected area*], we
pray: “Almighty God, merciful Father,
Your thoughts are not our thoughts,
Your ways are not our ways. In Your
wisdom You have permitted these
tornadoes. We implore You, let not
the hearts of Your people despair, nor
our faith fail but sustain and comfort
them. Direct all efforts to attend the
injured, console the bereaved and
protect the helpless. Be with the
emergency service providers who are
called to bring relief and aid, granting
them clear minds, steady hands and
compassionate hearts. Bring hope and
healing that they may find relief and
restoration; through Jesus Christ, our
Lord.” *Amen.*

Tornado

Heavenly Father, as news reports begin
to trickle in regarding the devastation
and damage a tornado caused recently
in [*name of city*], we ask for Your
comfort. While we continue to watch
the skies for more severe weather, we
also pray for the members of [*name of*
church], as early reports indicate the
church has been demolished. Show
these dear ones Your mercy. Calm their
fears and worries. Give strength to the
first responders and to those who are
witnessing this loss. And, above all,
cause our brothers and sisters in Christ
in [*name of city*] — and all of us — to
remember that even though it seems
that all is laid waste, You alone are our
foundation, our Savior, our Redeemer.
You have bought us, and we are Yours,
and nothing, not even devastation
or damage, can keep us from You. In
Your holy name. *Amen.*

Fire

Almighty and most merciful God, we pray for [name of affected people]. Bring hope and healing through Your Church, that all may find comfort and consolation through the promises of Your holy Word and the loving expressions of concern from those who care about them. Grant Your blessing upon all efforts of the recovery team and the consolation of the bereaved; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Church Fire

Almighty God, merciful Father, Your thoughts are not our thoughts; Your ways are not our ways. In Your wisdom You have permitted fire to destroy [name of church]. We implore You, let not the hearts of Your people despair nor their faith fail them, but sustain and comfort both the pastor and members of [name of church]. Direct all efforts to attend to this congregation, supplying all their needs in Christ Jesus. All this we ask for Your mercy's sake. *Amen.*

Forest Fires

Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who are in any distress, including those affected by the fires in [name of affected area], come before You, so that in all their necessities they may mark and receive Your manifold help and comfort. Graciously defend Your children from all calamity by fire and water, from war and pestilence, from scarcity and famine and from every other evil. Protect and defend the firefighters and those whose homes are in the path of the fires. In Your mercy draw them to Yourself; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord God, heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You preserved Your servants Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace. Be with the residents of [name of city] as their city is subjected to the flames of wildfires. Preserve their lives and that of the firefighters and emergency personnel responding to the inferno. Grant unto them patience in their affliction, and give us willing hearts to serve all those in need, for the sake of Your Son, Christ Jesus, our Lord, who has rescued us from the fiery furnace of everlasting death and lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Earthquake

Holy Father, Your Son spoke of earthquakes in various places as but the beginning of the birth pangs that attend a world awaiting its renewal at His appearing. Have mercy on all who suffer from this strong earthquake in [name of city]. Bless the efforts of those who seek to reach the dead, the dying, and the injured. In the midst of things that can be shaken, turn the eyes of all people to what can never be moved: Your unfailing love in Your Son, in Whose name we pray. *Amen.*

Civil Unrest

All-loving Father, look in Your bountiful compassion on [name of city]. Grant wisdom and guidance to all our civil leaders, and bless the efforts of our law enforcement to keep order and to bring a sense of security and calm. Grant protesters wisdom to express their disappointment and sorrow with respect and decorum. Rid our land of all conflict and fear between various groups, and help us all to live together

as Your beloved children, through Him who truly is our peace, even Jesus, whose blood has reconciled us to Yourself and made us one family. We ask it in His strong name. *Amen.*

Flood

We thank You, our heavenly Father that You have graciously kept us this day. Your ways are not our ways. In your wisdom you have permitted this flood to affect us. We pray that You let not the hearts of Your people despair nor their faith fail them. Protect, guide and give strength to all whose vocations call them to provide rescue and aid to those affected by these disasters. Direct all efforts, attend the injured, console the bereaved and protect the helpless. Bring hope and healing that they may find relief and restoration. Let Your holy angel be with us all that the wicked foe may have no power over us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Flood

Kind Master, Your voice stilled the storm and stayed the mighty waves. Remember now in mercy all those affected by the floods in [*name the affected area*]. Grant that those in harm's way may be attended by Your holy angels. Console those who have lost property with the promise of a kingdom that will never be taken from them. Protect all who work to bring relief, rescue and comfort. Help Your people to show Your divine mercy through their care and love for all affected by this flood that they might join Your Church in glorifying Your holy name, our only Savior. *Amen.*

Flood

O God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, You cleft a channel for the rains and said unto the sea, "Thus far shall you come, and no further." Look with kindness upon the people of [*name of community*] and the surrounding areas. Protect them from the rain and the still rising floodwaters, that their lives and their property may be spared from the ravages of these waters. Grant them patience and trust in You to endure their suffering, and keep us from ever growing weary in our love toward them and all those in need. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Your own beloved Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Flood

Merciful Lord, look with kindness and mercy on all those who suffer from the flooding in [*name of city or area*] and elsewhere. In Your mercy and according to Your will, supply their physical needs, give them hope and comfort in the midst of their distress, and grant them faith in the One who suffered for us, Jesus Christ. Guide, equip and strengthen all who work to bring healing and relief. Swiftly restore civil order and peace. Use this time and these events to humble us before You, to lead us to repent of our sin, and to seek Your mercy and love, which never fails; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Flooding

Heavenly Father, we know Your greatness and our weakness, Your majesty and our unworthiness. By this present flooding, You call us to the knowledge of our sin and to true repentance, lest we forget Your just judgment against sin. Do not let us be condemned with this wicked and evil world. O Lord, we are helpless and need Your protection. For Jesus' sake, abide with us. Lift up Your face and be gracious to us in this fearful time of danger, and do not test us beyond our strength. Protect our dear ones, especially those who are weak and helpless. Give us faith to cast our anxieties and cares on You, Who stills storms and guides the souls of men through every danger; in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Approaching Hurricane

Remember, heavenly Father, all those in peril from the path of Hurricane [*name of storm*]. Have mercy and grant them Your saving peace. Bless the last minute preparations of the government and relief agencies, that many lives may be spared. Make Your people's confidence in Your unfailing love be a shining light among those who do not know You, that they may also take refuge in Your comfort in this time of distress. We ask it all in the holy name of Jesus. *Amen.*





Psalm 23:4

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

BLESSING:

The Lord be with you as you walk through this valley and continue in the protection and comfort of His rod and staff which protect you.

Psalm 4:1

“Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!”

BLESSING:

The God of righteousness continue to grant you relief in this time of distress. Your Lord has heard your cry to Him and He blesses your prayers.

Psalm 4:8

“In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.”

BLESSING:

The Lord give you rest and peace as you rest in Him. Dwell in the safety of your Lord and wake up renewed by your Savior.

Psalm 121:8

“The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.”

BLESSING:

The Lord will keep you safe; He will be your protection and your guide, both now and forevermore.

Romans 5:8

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ dies for us.”

BLESSING:

The Lord has given His life for you. For you He died. May the Lord bless your life which is found in Christ.

John 10:27-28

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

BLESSING:

The Lord has heard your voice. The Lord has given you eternal life, and although this world tries to destroy you, God has continues to bless your life. May the Lord continue to guard you and your family in the palm of His hand.

Titus 3:5-6

“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.”

BLESSING:

You are saved because your Savior is merciful, The Lord bless you and preserve you always in His mercy.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord, who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell. The third
day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits
on the right hand of God the Father
Almighty. From thence He will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
Christian Church, the communion
of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. *Amen.*

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father
Almighty, maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the
only-begotten Son of God, begotten
of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very
God of very God, begotten, not
made, being of one substance with
the Father, by whom all things
were made; who for us men and
for our salvation came down from
heaven and was incarnate by the
Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and
was made man; and was crucified
also for us under Pontius Pilate. He
suffered and was buried. And the
third day He rose again according
to the Scriptures and ascended into
heaven and sits at the right hand of
the Father. And He will come again
with glory to judge the living and
the dead, whose kingdom will have
no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and Giver of life, who
proceeds from the Father and
the Son, who with the Father and
the Son together is worshiped
and glorified, who spoke by the
prophets. And I believe in one holy
Christian and apostolic Church, I
acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins, and I look for the
resurrection of the dead and the
life of the world to come. *Amen.*



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