

A Prayer After the Earthquake in Haiti

Lord, at times such as this, when we realize that the ground beneath our feet is not as solid as we had imagined, we plead for your mercy. As the things we have built crumble about us, we know too well how small we truly are on this ever-changing, ever-moving, fragile planet we call home. Yet you have promised never to forget us.

Do not forget us now.

Today, so many people are afraid. They wait in fear of the next tremor. They hear the cries of the injured amid the rubble. They roam the streets in shock at what they see. And they fill the dusty air with wails of grief and the names of missing dead.

Comfort them, Lord, in this disaster. Be their rock when the earth refuses to stand still, and shelter them under your wings when homes no longer exist. Embrace in your arms those who died so suddenly this day. Console the hearts of those who mourn, and ease the pain of bodies on the brink of death.

Pierce, too, our hearts with compassion, we who watch from afar, as the poorest on this side of the earth find only misery upon misery. Move us to act swiftly this day, to give generously every day, to work for justice always, and to pray unceasingly for those without hope.

And once the shaking has ceased, the images of destruction have stopped filling the news, and our thoughts return to life's daily rumblings, let us not forget that we are all your children and they, our brothers and sisters. We are all the work of your hands.

For though the mountains leave their place and the hills be tossed to the ground, your love shall never leave us, and your promise of peace will never be shaken.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and forever. **Amen.**

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PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAITI



"...*PRAY WITHOUT CEASING...*"
1 *THESSALONIANS 5:17*

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Holy God, source of life, lover of souls, out of the depths we call to you; in the face of incomprehensible anguish and sorrow, we lift the cries of our distress and implore you to show mercy upon those who are suffering from the destruction of the earthquake in Haiti. We pray for those who have died and for their loved ones who grieve asking you to hold them in the arms of your love; we pray for those who have been injured in body, mind or spirit and ask you to heal them; we pray for those who are homeless and wandering, for families torn asunder and ask you to shelter them. Strengthen the hands and hearts of those who assist in relief efforts and grant us all firm resolve to stand with our neighbors who are in need, to love them and to offer our generous support of them in this their time of trouble; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

God of compassion, you suffer alongside your children in Haiti who have long struggled to survive amid poverty, and now must endure in the wake of disastrous earthquakes. We lift up before you those who have died, that they may have rest in your loving arms. We lift up their loved ones, that you will comfort them in their grief. We raise up to you rescue workers, doctors and nurses, and all involved in bringing relief, that their efforts will be done in safety and with strength and skill. We pray for those who are suffering in any way, that assistance will come to them speedily, that they will be consoled and comforted. Grant us generous hearts to give of our resources, and strengthen our resolve to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Haiti, not only to respond in this season of disaster, but to alleviate long-standing need. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, the Solid Rock on which we stand. **Amen.**

The seas roar, the earth shakes, buildings crumble, roofs topple and lives shatter in an instant. Have mercy on the people of Haiti, O God. Give us compassion to weep with those who weep. Make us swift to help and persistent to rebuild, not just things and structures, but the lives of those you hold most dear; this we ask through the One who knows well both suffering and death, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. **Amen.**

A Litany

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: hear us as we pray for the people of Haiti in their distress.

For the many thousands who have died in this disaster.
Hear our cry, O God.

For those surviving with unbearable grief.
Hear our cry, O God.

For the children who are now orphans.
Hear our cry, O God.

For the injured and sick.
Hear our cry, O God.

For the doctors and nurses who have been called to care for them.
Hear our cry, O God.

For those in need of food, water, and shelter.
Hear our cry, O God.

For relief workers who have been called to help.
Hear our cry, O God.

For those among us with the Haiti Outreach Mission who are now preparing to travel to Haiti.
Hear our cry, O God.

For those among us with family and friends in Haiti, who have been touched in a direct way by this disaster.
Hear our cry, O God.

For us all, that we may respond with generosity and compassion.
Hear our cry, O God.

Compassionate God, whose Son Jesus wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus: Draw near to us in this time of sorrow and anguish, comfort those who mourn, strengthen those who are weary, encourage those in despair, and lead us all to fullness of life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen**