

Prayer Service for Protection from Illness
March 11, 2020

When all are gathered, the presider begins the prayer with the Sign of the Cross and the liturgical greeting.

Presider:

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

All: Amen.

Presider:

The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

The presider welcomes those gathered in his own words, then begins the opening prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider:

**O God, our refuge in adversity,
our strength in sickness, our comfort in sorrow,
protect your people,
that under your care,
our community and world might be spared from further sickness
and find relief through your loving mercy.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

All: Amen

GOSPEL

Mark 4:35-41

Deacon/Priest: **The Lord be with you.**

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon/Priest: **A reading from the holy gospel according to John.**

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

One day as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples:

“Let us cross to the other side.”

Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was.

And other boats were with him.

**A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat,
so that it was already filling up.**

Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion,

They woke Jesus and said to him,

“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

He woke up,

Rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! be still!”

The wind ceased and there was great calm,

Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified?

Do you not yet have faith?

They were filled with great awe and said to one another,

“Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Following the Gospel, the presider may offer a brief reflection.

INTERCESSIONS

Presider: Trusting that the Lord, who has authority over all of nature, will hear our prayers, we present our petitions before him.

Reader: For the Church,
that we will remain faithful and compassionate
in the face of adversity and distress,
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer. *(Repeated after each intercession.)*

For government leaders,
that they will have the wisdom and guidance
to protect their people,
we pray to the Lord.

For medical professionals,
that God may guide their hands and hearts
and that they may be protected from sickness as they care for those afflicted,
we pray to the Lord.

For the people of our community and world,
that we might be protected from sickness and loss of life from this illness,
we pray to the Lord:

For those suffering in the outbreak of sickness,
that they might be healed,
and for those who have died from this sickness,
we pray to the Lord.

Presider:

**Gathering all of our prayers and praises into one,
we pray in the words that Jesus taught:**

All: Our Father

BLESSING

Presider:

**God of all consolation,
your Son calmed the wind and rain,
and healed the sick of mind and body.
Through your fatherly care,
grant us your protection from illness
and help us to stand firm in the midst of danger.
Grant your healing to those who are ill
and bring this time of sickness to a swift end.**

**Guide us, that we might show your compassion,
and live your justice:
never losing hope or seeking our own good at the expense of another.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR

All pray together:

**O Mary, Mother of God,
through the years,
your people have called on your intercession
in times of epidemic and illness.**

**We call on you, now, as our mother
and ask that you pray for us,
that we might find healing and refuge,
and a quick end to this time of illness.**

**Be to us truly Our Lady of Prompt Succor
and draw us ever closer to your Son,
the source of all healing and consolation.**

**Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.
Amen.**

Presider: **May almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy ✠ Spirit.**

All: **Amen.**