



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

LITURGICAL RESOURCES TO COMMEMORATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Please note that these liturgical texts are presented as individual modules that may be used in whole or in part.

An Exhortation

The exhortation may be used at the beginning of the liturgy prior to the Opening Acclamation or at the beginning of the Prayers of the People.

Presider Dear Friends in Christ, on this day we gather to reflect, to remember, and to reconcile the events of September 11, 2001. Our lives, our world, our nation has changed. We remember all those who lost their lives in New York City, in Washington, D.C. and the plains of Pennsylvania. We pray Almighty God to give us the courage to live as people whose lives are bound up in hope, that from these tragic events we may see your hand at work and find comfort in your presence. Therefore as we lean on the everlasting arms, let us offer our prayers to the Holy One.

People ***God of mercy, you heal the broken in heart, and bind up the wounds of the hurting. Strengthen us in our weakness, calm our troubled spirits and dispel our doubts and fears. Renew our faith; restore our joy in this life, for it is you who promises life and gives us hope for the life to come. Amen.***

Presider You who turn the shadow of night into the bright promise of a new day, empower us to shape a world marked by ways of life that lead to justice and peace for all peoples. Fashion in us a people who are more ready to grow in understanding than eager to judge those who are different from us. Form us as a people determined to heal wounds rather than inflict them.

People ***We pray that you would cultivate such love in us that we may reach out in compassion to all those who are still wounded by the events of that day; and in seeking to heal others, may we experience a love that makes us whole. This we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.***

THE GREAT SILENCE: TWO MINUTES

Silence is a powerful reminder of God's presence and our need to "be still and know" God.

Presider God is our hope and strength, a very present help in time of trial. Therefore in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, those affected by the tragedy, and those who continue in pain, let us listen for God's voice in the silence.

A two-minute silence is observed in memory of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and those who have died in the wars that have ensued. (The silence is begun and ended with a bell.)

Presider Merciful God, you seek us in the hidden places of our ignorance and in the forgotten corners of our despair. Gather us into your loving embrace, and pour upon us your wise and holy Spirit, so that we may become faithful servants in whom you rejoice with all the company of heaven. Amen.

The liturgy continues with the Opening Acclamation

Collects & Prayers

O Almighty God, who brings good out of evil and turns even the wrath of your children towards your promised peace: Hear our prayers this day as we remember those of many nations and differing faiths whose lives were cut short by the fierce flames of anger and hatred. Hasten the time when the menace of war shall be removed. Cleanse both us and those perceived to be our enemies of all hatred and distrust. Pour out the spirit of peace on all the rulers of our world that we may be brought through strife to the lasting peace of the kingdom of your Son; Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (*Episcopal Diocese of NY*)

Almighty God, you have brought us to this day through twenty years of suffering and conflict: Help us to turn our hands from the urge for vengeance to the works of justice, and to turn the voice of mourning to the proclamation of your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Episcopal Diocese of NY*)

God of the ages, before your eyes all empires rise and fall, yet you are changeless. Be near us in this age of terror and in these moments of remembrance. Uphold those who work and watch and wait and weep in love. By your Spirit, give rise in us a broad sympathy for all the peoples of your earth. Strengthen us to comfort those who mourn and work for those things that make for peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

The Presider leads the assembly in the rite of penance.

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is kept for a time as we recall where we have sinned against God and our neighbors.

Presider We have abused, ill-treated, and neglected your good earth. We have willfully misused your gifts of creation; Lord, be merciful:

People **Forgive us our sin.**

Presider We have disregarded our sisters and brothers of different faiths, ethnicities and nations. We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid; Lord, be merciful:

People **Forgive us our sin.**

Presider We have stood silent as our sisters and brothers cry out for mercy and compassion. We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice; Lord, be merciful:

People **Forgive us our sin.**

Presider We have been concerned only with ourselves and neglected to see your presence in others. We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it; Lord, be merciful:

People **Forgive us our sin.**

Presider We have placed our possessions and our things ahead of doing your will. We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbors as ourselves; Lord, be merciful:

People **Forgive us our sin.**

The Presider alone standing offers absolution

Presider May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM 1

Presider Dear Friends in Christ, on this day we gather to reflect, to remember, and to reconcile the events of September 11, 2001. Our lives, our world, our nation have changed. We remember all those who lost their lives in New York City, in Washington, D.C., and the plains of Pennsylvania. Give us courage to live as people whose lives are bound up in hope, that from these tragic events we may see your hand at work and find comfort in your presence. Therefore as we lean on the everlasting arms let us offer our prayers to Almighty God.

Leader Lord, as we the world lingers today to look back and to look forward, we pause to pray to you, our only defender and the author of peace.

Leader O God, in a pillar of fire you visited the Israelites and you lit up the night; so empower your Church to light up the darkness of our world, and drive terror and hate from the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

People ***Speak to our hearts.***

Leader As Moses stretched out his hand to divide the waters, and brought the Israelites into a land of freedom; we pray for our nation, O God, that you might always bless us, and all, with freedom from oppression and fear. Lord, in your mercy,

People ***Speak to our hearts.***

Leader When you bring freedom O God, the mountains skip like rams and the little hills like lambs; so spread your mercy over all the earth that all your children can dance together without fear. Lord, in your mercy,

People ***Speak to our hearts.***

Leader We pray for our brothers and sisters in this community, and especially those who celebrate this week; those celebrating birthdays, and those celebrating anniversaries. Lord, in your mercy,

People ***Speak to our hearts.***

Leader We pray for the sick, the suffering, the fearful, and all who live in the wake of terror, especially _____.

People ***Speak to our hearts.***

Leader We pray for...*other petitions or thanksgivings may added.*

People ***Speak to our hearts.***

Presider Gracious God, we pray today for all those who grieve today, for those who witnessed and survived the attacks, those who came to rescue, save, and protect, and for all the souls who were lost, especially those we remember now. We pray for the men and women who have been called to defend our country and the ways of freedom—those serving at home and abroad. We pray that your healing balm would run down like rain upon us all, and we pray that all who were lost were also found, by You.

People ***Lord make us instruments of your peace: where there is hatred let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love: for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.***

The liturgy continues with the lighting of the memorial candle.

THE LIGHTING OF MEMORIAL CANDLE

Light has played an important role in the life of Christianity from its very beginning. The Paschal candle stands as the Light of Christ in our midst. As an act of remembrance, a candle set apart for the use as a memorial to those lost is placed in a prominent place before the assembly.

A light is taken from the Paschal Candle and is used to light the Memorial Candle. Congregational candles may be lit.

The Presider then prays;

Presider You who can turn the shadow of night into the bright promise of a new day, empower us to shape a world marked by ways of life that lead to justice and peace for all peoples. Fashion in us a people who are more ready to grow in understanding than eager to judge those who are different from us. Form us as a people determined to heal wounds rather than inflict them.

People ***We pray at last that you would cultivate such love in us that we may reach out in compassion to all those who are still wounded by the events of that day; and in seeking to heal others, may we experience a love that makes us whole. This we pray in the name of Jesus our Christ. Amen.***

The Liturgy Continues with the Exchange of the Peace

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM 2

The Deacon or other Person appointed leads the prayers, and the People respond as indicated.

Leader With all our heart and all our mind, we pray to you, O Lord.

People ***Make us instruments of your peace.***

Leader For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord:

People ***Where there is hatred, let us sow love.***

Leader For our enemies and those who wish us harm, especially those who led to acts of terror; that in the aftermath of the destruction of September 11, 2001 we may grow ever more deeply in your spirit of justice and peace, we pray to you, O Lord:

People ***Where there is injury, let us sow pardon.***

Leader For all who believe in you, Lord Christ, and all whose faith is known to you alone, that they may be delivered from the shadow of fanaticism that arises from poverty and oppression, and from the pride that arises from wealth and comfort, and brought into your light, we pray to you, O Lord:

People ***Where there is discord, let us sow union.***

Leader For those who have lost their faith in you, for those who continue to mourn those who died on that terrible day, that your Church may give comfort and hope in this time of remembrance, we pray to you, O Lord:

People ***Where there is doubt, let us sow faith.***

Leader For all those whose spirit has been broken and whose lives have been disrupted by the violence of that day and its aftermath, we offer our prayers along with the persecuted, the lonely, and the sick, and those who have bid our prayers today, that they may be relieved and protected. For these and for those whose need we do not know, we pray to you, O Lord:

People ***Where there is despair, let us sow hope.***

Leader For the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church, especially in the Diocese of Missouri; that we may hear the Gospel and proclaim it in word and action to build up your kingdom here on earth, we pray to you, O Lord:

People ***Where there is darkness, let us sow light.***

Leader For all who died in the terror of September 11, 2001, and for those others whom we remember today, (especially _____); for those who believed in your resurrection and those who did not know your promise of eternal life, in trust that they have been found by you and are at rest in your holy habitation, we pray to you, O Lord:

People ***Where there is sadness, let us sow joy.***

Leader We pray for the concerns of our parish; especially giving thanks for those who celebrate birthdays this week: _____. (Silence) And we pray for the forgiveness of our sins.

People ***Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved as to love.***

Leader Take heart, in Christ we have been reconciled to God.

People ***For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we reborn to eternal life. Amen.***

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After all have received communion the Presider says

Presider God is with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Let us pray. *Silence.* We thank you, God, for all the blessings of this table:

People ***For the life-giving story, the living bread, and the wine of new creation. Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal, to tell the Good News to neighbors and strangers with creative words and compassionate service, walking the way of Christ. Amen.***

BLESSINGS

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing ...

May God who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky, who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water, who multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water into wine, lead us, feed us, multiply us, and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator now and through all eternity; and the blessing ...