

Christ Our King,

Our world is overtaken by unexpected calamity, and by a host of attending fears, worries, and insecurities.

We witness suffering, confusion, and hardship multiplied around us, and we find ourselves swept up in these same anxieties and troubles, dismayed by so many uncertainties.

**Now we turn to you, O God,
in this season of our common distress.**

Be merciful, O Christ, to those who suffer, to those who worry, to those who grieve, to those who are threatened or harmed in any way by this upheaval. Let your holy compassions be active throughout the world even now—tending the afflicted, comforting the brokenhearted, and bringing hope to many who are hopeless.

**Use even these hardships to woo our hearts
nearer to you, O God.**

Indeed, O Father, may these days of disquiet become a catalyst for conviction and repentance, for the tendering of our affections, for the stirring of our sympathies, for the refining of our love.

**We are your people, who are called by you,
We need not be troubled or alarmed.**

Indeed, O Lord, let us love now more fearlessly, remembering that you created us, and appointed us to live in these very places, in the midst of these unsettled times.

A LITURGY FOR A

Time of Widespread Suffering

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It is no surprise to you that we are here now,
sharing in this turmoil along with the rest of
our society, for you have called your children
to live as salt and light among the nations,
praying and laboring for the flourishing of the
communities where we dwell, acting as agents of
your forgiveness, salvation, healing, reconciliation,
and hope, in the very midst of an often-troubled world.

And in these holy vocations
you have not left us helpless, O Lord,
because you have not left us at all.
Your Spirit remains among us.

**Inhabit now your church, O Spirit of the Risen Christ.
Unite and equip your people for the work before them.**

Father, empower your children to live as your children.
In times of distress let us respond, not as those
who would instinctively entrench for our own
self-preservation, but rather as those who—in imitation
of their Lord—would move in humble obedience toward
the needs and hurts of their neighborhoods and communities.

You were not ashamed to share in our sufferings, Jesus.
**Let us now be willing to share in yours, serving
as your visible witnesses in this broken world.**

Hear now these words, you children of God,
and be greatly encouraged:

The Lord's throne in heaven is yet occupied,
his rule is eternal, and his good purposes
on earth will be forever accomplished.
So we need never be swayed by the brief and
passing panics of this age.

**You are the King of the Ages, O Christ,
and history is held in your Father's hands.**

We, your people, know the good and glorious end of this story. Our heavenly hope is secure. In this time of widespread suffering then, let us rest afresh in the surpassing peace of that vision, that your whole church on earth might be liberated to love more generously and sacrificially.

Now labor in and through us, O Lord, extending and multiplying the many expressions of your mercy.

Amen.



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