

***Intercessions for Pentecost 18 (A) • 18 September 2005***

Almighty God and everlasting Father, strength of the weak and comfort of sufferers: You teach us in Your Holy Word that You do not willingly afflict or grieve any of Your children created in Your image. Let the prayers of Your children who are in any trouble rise to You. To everyone in distress grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment.

We pray especially for the victims of hurricane and flooding, and for all whose lives, property and livelihoods continue to be threatened by these forces of nature. While we bow before the might of Your power in the creation of which You alone are LORD, we beseech You, for the sake of Your mercy revealed in Him Who suffered all things for us and Who suffers all things with us, to relieve the suffering of the survivors and to grant wisdom to all in authority and resolve and strength to those sent to rebuild destroyed homes and communities. We beseech Your mercy especially on those who mourn in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, both on those who know the terrible fate of their loved ones and on those who will never know how they were lost.

Have mercy, LORD God of the nations, on the suffering peoples of Africa, stricken by poverty, disease and torn by the scourge of war, for the people of the Middle East, yearning for a secure peace with personal freedom and hope for the

coming generation. We ask Your blessing on all who serve in the armed and emergency forces of our nation. We pray especially for Your servants Travis, John, Jeremy and Juan. Make us mindful of their sacrifice when we chafe at the shortages of fuel and other goods we may experience or at the cost of this great effort, for it is they, not we, who are risking their lives for our countrymen and for peace in this world. Reform, further and strengthen the work of the United Nations so that, year by year, peaceful solutions to conflict can be found and the nations will learn war no more.

Have mercy, O LORD, on the home-bound, the sick and the dying of our own community, especially for Your servants Marilyn, Marie, Tom, Mercedes, Ruth, Jack & Jackie, Dale, Dean & Joan, Elmer, Earle, Theda, John & Eardeen, Alma and Michelle, and also on Susan, Brent, Anne, Lauren, Clare, Pastor Michael, Carol, Taylor and Darlene, as well as on all those whom we now name with our voices or in our hearts before You:

*[Silence]*

According to Your gracious will, turn their sickness into health and our anxiety into joy; support us all the day long of this troubled life, O LORD, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is

over and our work is done. Then, Lord, in Your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last.

Be with our congregation today we pray, Lord God Holy Spirit, that we may chose wisely a pattern for our life together that will be make us effective heralds of the Kingdom of God in this community. May the vision of the Church set forth in our constitution become a reality among us and through us.

We give thanks, Holy and Triune God, for those faithful and inspiring ones through whom Your name has been glorified and Your Kingdom proclaimed and who have who have gone before us into Your glorious presence. We thank You today especially for Your servant, Dag Hammarskjöld, who sought Your face by making peace in this world. May we, too, follow where he, Blessed Mary, the Virgin Mother of Our Lord, Saint James the Apostle and all the Saints have led the way by Your grace alone.

And finally, dear LORD, we ask You to watch with those who wake or watch or weep, and to give Your Angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, rest the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous. In Your love, give us all this, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

✠**Amen.**