

## ***Intercessions for Pentecost 20 (A) • 2 October 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.

Watch, dear LORD, 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.

**We pray for the victims of hurricane and flooding**, and for all whose lives, property and livelihoods continue to be threatened by these forces of nature. We beseech Your mercy especially on those who mourn in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, both on those who know the terrible fate of their loved ones and on those who will never know how they were lost.

**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. Give strength and courage to those preparing for battle against the enemies of freedom or the ravages of nature. Console those who mourn the deaths of the fallen of this past week and good hope to those whose loved ones serve in harm's way.

**Have mercy, O LORD, on the home-bound, the sick and the dying** of our own community, especially on Your servants 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:

***[Spoken Intentions or Silence]***

According to Your gracious will, turn their sickness into health and wholeness, and our anxiety into joy.

**To Your Church suffering under persecution, give courage, resolve and that peace which the world can neither give nor take away.** In particular we pray for the Christians of Indonesia who suffer for their faith under Muslim terrorists and state persecution. We intercede with You, Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake and in His Name, for all those You have made Your children by water and the Holy Spirit. We pray especially for Eti Pangesti, for Dr. Rebekka Loanita and for Ratna Malabangun and for the Sunday School children who were forced to testify in court against these sisters and witnesses of Jesus Christ on the island of Java. As You uphold them and their husbands and families in faith and hope during their imprisonment, LORD God Holy Spirit, speak also to the hearts of all followers of that false prophet through whose teaching bringing little children to Jesus is made a crime and the world is held hostage to terror and call them to faith in the Prince of Peace.

**With reverence and affection we remember before You, O everlasting God, all our departed friends and relatives,** especially your

servants, **Marilyn and Ruth**, and all those whom we now name with our lips or in our hearts before You:

***[Spoken Intentions or Silence]***

Keep us in union with them here through faith and love toward You, that hereafter we may enter into Your presence and be numbered with those who serve You and look upon Your face in glory everlasting. 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.

Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of Angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy Angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth, so that we, too, may follow where Saint Michael, Archangel, Blessed Mary, Virgin Mother of Our Lord, Saint James the Apostle and all the Angels and Saints have led the way by Your grace alone. **?Amen.**