

Prayers during times of an epidemic/pandemic

1. A Collect for restoration

God of wind and fire, earth and water, who understands those mysteries that we can never fully comprehend, eradicate the pestilence that hovers among us by night and day, so that we may be saved from its deadly grip, and all people be restored to that life in which we will once again be free to welcome and walk with each other, through Him who lived and walked among us, even Jesus our Lord. **AMEN**

2. Intercessory Prayers

God of compassion,

Have mercy on the people of our nations, as we strive to protect one another and rid the world of this sinister virus that spreads fear, suffering and death, untold.

- Bless and heal all who have been affected by the virus and comfort all who grieve.
- Watch over the poor, the homeless the unemployed, immigrants and refugees, and provide for their every need, so that the coming days may not add to the burdens and deprivations that already crush them.
- Accompany all in quarantine and those who practice social distancing, and fill their days with courage and hope so that they may not be overwhelmed with anxiety and stress.
- Support and encourage all medical and para medical personnel who work tirelessly to protect and save the sick; endow and equip them with healing skills and keep them and their families safe.
- Protect all those who repeatedly clean and disinfect public places and facilities so that they may remain alert and avert the dangers they are exposed to.
- Increase the powers of observation and speed up the work of research among those scientists who work night and day to discover a vaccine and medication that will cure the sick and spread relief in our desperate world.

- Encourage all who provide essential services to be vigilant and faithful at their posts, so that we may be able to go about our basic daily lives with access to the basic necessities of life.
- Guide all police and military personnel whose duty requires them to work among the public, and give them a blend of firmness and understanding so that our people and communities will remain calm and orderly.
- Give wisdom, humility and foresight to those who make policy decisions, and clarity and competence to those who implement these policies.

And then O Lord, inspire all our citizens to care for one another as we care for our own, so that each will be protected and nourished by the other and all work for the common good, through Jesus our courageous and caring companion. **AMEN**