

Worship in Time of Storms

If you have a candle, bring it front of you and light it to set apart this time and space for worship. You can also use a flashlight, lantern or any other light source to represent the Light of Christ with you!

In the readings labeled "One" and "All," you can choose one worship leader to be "One" for your family, or take turns leading each section.

GATHERING

One: Jesus Christ is the light of the world

All: The light no darkness can overcome

One: God is our light and our salvation

All: Our refuge and our stronghold

OPENING PRAYER *(One person read aloud)*

Merciful God, when the storms rage and threaten to overtake us, awaken our faith to know the power of your peace. Deliver us from our fear and ease our anxiety. Help us to endure the time of uncertainty and give us strength to face the challenges ahead. Give us the assurance of your presence even in this time so that we can cling to your promise of hope and life shown to us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LITANY

One: O Lord, when the waters rage and foam,

All: Still the storms and grant us your peace.

One: When the gift of creation becomes burden

All: Still the storms and grant us your peace.

One: When our fears threaten to overtake us,

All: Still the storms and grant us your peace.

One: Speak your word to the wind and to the sea,

All: Fill us with faith.

One: Show us your care in the service of others,

All: Fill us with compassion.

One: Make the joy of your peace overflow in our lives,

All: Fill us with hope.

GOSPEL

Read the text three times, allowing a time of silence after each reading. Take turns reading, hearing it in different family members' voices.

Mark 4:35-41 Common English Bible (CEB)

Jesus stops a storm

³⁵ Later that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." ³⁶ They left the crowd and took him in the boat just as he was. Other boats followed along.

³⁷ Gale-force winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so that the boat was swamped. ³⁸ But Jesus was in the rear of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. They woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we're drowning?"

³⁹ He got up and gave orders to the wind, and he said to the lake, "Silence! Be still!" The wind settled down and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Jesus asked them, "Why are you frightened? Don't you have faith yet?"

⁴¹ Overcome with awe, they said to each other, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

RESPONSE (*Discuss together or meditate individually on the following questions*)

- What did you hear from this scripture passage?
- What words or phrases stuck out to you? Why do you think that is?
- How might God be speaking to you through this passage today?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Together, we pray for our world, the church, and all those in need...

Gracious God, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Be with those who endure the winds and rains of Hurricane Ian. Protect those in the path of danger. As one community on earth bound together by your grace, inspire us to pray, serve, and help all those who suffer.

Compassionate God, thank you for hearing us.

One: God of earth and air, water and fire, height and depth, we pray for those who work in danger, who rush in to bring hope and help and comfort when others flee to safety, whose mission is to seek and save, serve and protect, and whose presence embodies the protection of the Good Shepherd. Give them caution and concern for one another, so that in safety they may do what must be done, under your watchful eye. Support them in their courage and dedication that they may continue to save lives, Ease pain, and mend the torn fabric of lives and social order.

Compassionate God, thank you for hearing us.

One: God with us, make us ready to put our prayer into action and to embody your care to one another. In days, weeks, and months to come, awaken us to the needs of our neighbor near and far and unite us to be a sign of your hope. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear how we will be a sign of Your healing.

Compassionate God, thank you for hearing us.

One: God of all creation, when our news feed seems to only speak of our own immediate worry, we remember those in need of prayer beyond us – the sick, the lonely, the heartbroken, the hungry, and those living in fear. We pray especially for those whose names we speak aloud or hold in our hearts now....

Compassionate God, thank you for hearing us.

We entrust all these prayers to you, those spoken aloud and held in the silence of our hearts. We trust in your promise to hear us, to intercede for us even when we don't know what to say, and to abide with us no matter what. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our salvation and hope. **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us affirm our faith together.

All: We believe that God creates all things,
renews all things and celebrates all things.
We believe Earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with our kin.
We believe that God became flesh and blood,
became a piece of Earth,
a human being called Jesus Christ,
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross,
for all human beings and for all creation.
We believe that the risen Jesus
is the Christ at the core of creation
reconciling all things to God,
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.
We believe the Spirit renews life in creation
groans in empathy with a suffering creation,
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.
We believe that with Christ we will rise
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

BENEDICTION *(sung or spoken)*

The Lord bless and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine on you,
And be gracious, gracious,
Shalom, Shalom.