**Five Examples of Litanies for the Pandemic**

***For your use or to inspire your own litanies appropriate to your context.***

***The following litany comes out of the Anglican Church in Australia and addresses the concerns of Covid-19 crisis in a very traditional form.***

LITANY DURING A PANDEMIC

God the Father,
**Have mercy upon us.**

God the Son,
**Have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit,
**Have mercy upon us.**

Holy Trinity, One God,
**Have mercy upon us.**

Spare us, good Lord, spare your people, who you have redeemed with your most precious blood, and by your mercy preserve us through this crisis, and for ever.
**Spare us, good Lord.**

From all evil and wickedness, from disease and illness, especially this coronavirus,
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all ignorance and apathy, and from all willingness to engage in activities that could harm others,
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From all blindness of heart, from pride and a sense of invincibility,
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

We your children beseech you to hear us, O Lord God, to look upon this world struck by pandemic, and drive from us this disease,
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to strengthen the weak, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems,
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That is may please you to give health and comfort to all who are already stricken with illness,
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give patience and grace to all those who are in quarantine or who fear that they have already contracted the virus,
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to surround those who are scared and fearful, those who are overcome with anxiety and worry,
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give wisdom and stamina to all scientists, doctors, and all who are working on tests, vaccines, and treatments,
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to uphold all those who are treating and ministering to the sick,
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give to your people a heart to love their neighbor through this time and to look after those who are most vulnerable.
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to support, help, and comfort those who are worried about getting through this time financially and whether they will have employment when this passes,
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to help our young people grow in wisdom and knowledge even as universities are closed,
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to heal the sick, lift up the stricken, and open the airways of those who have difficulty breathing,
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to receive into your bosom those who have died from this disease, and to gather into your arms those who grieve,
**We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.
**Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
**Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
**Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
**Grant us your peace.**

*Diocese of Perth, Anglican Church*

*Christ Church Clairemont*

***Another litany written in a traditional form.***

A LITANY AMIDST THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

God the Father,
***Have mercy on us.***

God the Son,
***Have mercy on us.***

God the Holy Spirit,
***Have mercy on us.***

Holy Trinity, one God,
***Have mercy on us.***

Most merciful God, we come to you in this time of anxiety and uncertainty surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19. As the sorrows of our heart and mind increase, we beseech you to save us from all trouble and fear. Cast away all works of darkness. Be our rock, a castle to keep us safe. For the Lord is our stronghold and sure defense, and he will be our Savior.

For all who have died: receive them into the arms of your mercy, grant them eternal peace, and surround those who mourn with your healing grace.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those directly infected with the virus: help them recover in good health and restore them in body, mind, and spirit.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those at high risk of infection, especially the elderly, those with underlying illnesses, the marginalized, and the poor: keep them healthy and free from all sickness.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those in quarantine, the shut-in, and the infirmed: help them find peace, keep them in good health, and renew their mind and spirit.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all hospitals, doctors, nurses, and staff: protect them as they minister to the sick, relieve all stress, and provide the resources and space to meet the needs of all the infirmed.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For first responders: guard them from all harm and grant them strength and courage as they respond to all calls for help.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For service industry workers and those forced to work as their community shuts down: keep them healthy, bestow the resources to best care for themselves and their families, and assure them in times of financial and medical anxiety.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those experiencing financial loss and uncertainty of resources: have mercy on them, alleviate any fear, and provide for them daily bread and wage.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the leaders of this nation and the world: help them make sound and safe decisions to best secure the future of our planet.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all schools, students, teachers, administrators and school staff: as schools remain open, keep them healthy and in good spirit to learn; as schools close, feed those who will go hungry without guaranteed meals and shelter all students have no place to live.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all scientists and those working to find a cure: inspire them towards your truth and help them discover and disseminate a vaccine and cure.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all media and journalists: protect them from all harm in their reporting and move them to be a vector of truth and certainty, and never fear or panic.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all places of worship: embolden them to be beacons of hope and love and help us to gather however and wherever we can – be it in person or online – to give you praise.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the leaders of our church: help them minister to their flock; fortify them to be faithful pastors, to persevere in prayer, and to build up the family of God in new and creative ways.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the young: spare them from harm and fear and keep them a joyful sign of your love and light.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all parents: build in them strength and fortitude for the time ahead and give them the words and witness to be wise counselors and compassionate caregivers.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For calm amidst the storm: as the waves toss our boat and we wonder “do you not care?”, remind us to not be afraid, that with you all things are possible, and that even the wind and sea obey you.
***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Stir up in us a spirit of compassion and tenacity for the time ahead.
***Amen.***

Move us to check-in with loved ones at high risk of infection and those in quarantine.
***Amen.***

Ease our fear and anxiety, that we may share our resources rather than hoard them and extend a helping hand to those in need.
***Amen.***

Inspire us to share the Good News of your love and hope.
***Amen.***

All this we ask through your son Jesus Christ our Lord: healer of the sick, ruler of the tempestuous sea, and Savior of the world.
***Amen.***

Officiant: Lord, have mercy.
***People: Christ, have mercy.
ALL****:* ***Lord, have mercy.***

By Michael Kurth

***A litany written in a more contemporary form (modified to remove a reference to Lent):***

OUT OF THE DEPTHS WE CRY OUT TO YOU IN THE FACE OF THE CORONAVIRUS

(Psalm 130:1-2, adapted)

Creator God of the universe, God of a thousand names and faces, divine source of health and wholeness, whose compassion embraces the entire community of Earth: behold your fearful people all over the world as we confront the Coronavirus. Out of the depths we cry to you, O God. Holy God, hear our voices. Let your ear be attentive to our cries as we pray for all who may be affected by the virus:

For all healthcare-givers--nurses, physicians, aides, EMTs, paramedics, technicians, and therapists; out of the depths. O God--

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For hospital and nursing home medical staff, assistants, and housekeepers who have close contact with patients and for the patients themselves; out of the depths, O God--

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For all who travel for their daily work over land and sea and through the air—flight attendants, pilots, ship captains and sailors, bus drivers, passengers and long distance truck drivers; out of the depths, O God--

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For all who handle money—bankers, supermarket, village market and convenience store cashiers; out of the depths, O God--

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For all who pump gas and serve customers at Interstate rest areas; out of the depths, O God--

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For restaurant workers—bartenders, coffee shop baristas, cooks, servers, chefs, and dishwashers; out of the depths, O God--

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For hospitality workers--hotel and motel receptionists, servers and housekeepers; out of the depths, O God--

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For daycare center staff who cuddle and comfort children and for all children; out of the depths, O God--

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For teachers and professors, coaches and cafeteria workers at schools and universities across the world and students everywhere; out of the depths, O God--

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For the homeless huddling for warmth over steam grates and under urban bridges; out of the depths, O God--

**We cry to you. Protect them.**

For the poor, the lonely, the vulnerable, migrants, and the isolated elderly who have no protectors; out of the depths, O God--

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For clergy and people who eat the bread of life, drink from the common cup, and pass the sign of peace; out of the depths--

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For all who have tested positive, all who are waiting for test results, and all who are quarantined; out of the depths—

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

For all who have already died of the Coronavirus, now free from pain and suffering. May the God of hope carry them all the way home, and comfort their families and friends. Out of the depths—

**We cry out to you. Protect them.**

Loving God, hasten the day when the virus will have run its course; quicken scientists to develop medications and vaccines; call out the best instincts of your people—love, neighborliness, compassion, and a sense of caring for every member of your beloved community on Earth. We pray out of the depths to you, O God of hope, whom we call Jesus, Allah, YHWH, Divine Mystery, Wakan Tanka, Great Spirit. **Amen**

--Anne and Jeffery Rowthorn

*Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Studies,*

*St. John’s Abbey and University, Collegeville, MN*

**Another contemporary language litany (modified to remove a reference to Lent):**

PRAYER IN THE FACE OF A PANDEMIC: A LITANY

Healing, sustaining, and restoring God, whose grace is greater than frightening viruses and frustrating vulnerability,

**Breathe new life into our hurting world and our daunting journey.**

Remind us of the trustworthiness of your promise, that you will never leave us nor forsake us. **Reawaken our souls to this Resurrection truth—that our fear is not our governor; that our frailty does not have the final word to speak; and that our suffering is never the end of our story.**

We hurt with the crisis of this coronavirus.

**We break with those who are broken in this global pandemic.**

We remember those who are afflicted with the virus.

**Bring to these hurting souls a healing that restores, a strength that sustains, and a joy so durable that nothing can diminish it.**

We remember medical professionals on whom our lives depend, who are placing themselves in harm’s way daily to provide aid to afflicted patients.

**Equip them with strength beyond their strength, courage beyond their courage, and a fresh awareness of how deeply their work matters.**

We remember the most vulnerable in our midst: The homebound, nursing home-bound, and hospitalized; those whose vitality belies their years; those whose financial vulnerability inspires anguish; those whose addiction cries out for a journey of recovery; those whose depression generates a crippling sense of isolation.

**Come, Lord Jesus. Come as a companion, encourager, and deliverer in every circumstance where people feel alone, isolated, marginalized, and desperate.**

We remember those whose employment is severely impacted by bans, mandates, and restrictions.

**Come, Holy Spirit. Bring unexpected provision, unanticipated contingency, and unforeseen blessing.**

We remember families that must both accommodate new realities and adjust to unplanned rhythms.

**Come, Parenting God, and initiate within our families an energized patience, an expanded playfulness, and an elevated penchant for loving.**

We remember your church, taken out of its normal patterns and practices.

**Holy God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—awaken in your church a vision for what it means to connect in the midst of disconnection, to engage in the midst of disengagement, to bless in a season of reoriented blessing**.

We remember those who are cynical about this crisis—and those who feel secure and unthreatened.

**Crucified, Resurrected Christ, humble us in our arrogance; disrupt us in our artificial sense of safety; and transform our cynicism into an eagerness to stand alongside those who are hurting.**

Let your love be our breathing. Let your compassion be our heartbeat. Let your mind become our mind.

**Let your Way be our way; your Truth our truth; your Life our life.**

Most of all—Heartbroken, Weeping, and Resurrecting God—remind us that you are not watching our struggle from a distance.

**Speak to us afresh the truth that you are with us, allowing your tears to commingle with ours, allowing your heart to break with ours, allowing your intimate grace to redeem our suffering, our sickness, and our sorrow**.

In this [time of suffering], where the cross looms large,

**usher us into the cadences of Resurrection, so that we might engage in the stewardship of life amid the trappings of death.**

Come, Lord Jesus!

**Come, Lifegiving Spirit!**

Come, Universe-Creating, Circumstance-Transforming God!

**Come and bring wholeness in our brokenness, hope in our despair, healing in our hurting, life in our death.**

Reform our hearts, O God.

**Redirect our way. On the canvas of our journey, display the colors of your grace.**

Rework our desires, O God. Recreate our will.

**Like a Poet come and rewrite our song, that we might sing for you.**

[https://www.wpaumc.org/files/tables/content/12995400/files/Prayer+in+the+Face+of+a+Pandemic%5B7637%5D.pdf](https://www.wpaumc.org/files/tables/content/12995400/files/Prayer%2Bin%2Bthe%2BFace%2Bof%2Ba%2BPandemic%5B7637%5D.pdf)

***You may not wish to use the following litany in its present form, but it may inspire you to craft a litany appropriate to your community.***

[**LITANY OF INTENTIONS IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC**](https://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/2020/05/01/litany-pandemic/)

May we be happy
May we be peaceful
May we be free

May we grow in awareness of our interconnectedness to all beings
May we grow in love of our neighbor
May we grow our resolve to build a social safety net for all
May we restore our commitment to the common good

May we wash our hands
May we wash our hands some more
May we buy only as much hand sanitizer as we need

If we must shelter in place, may we be grateful to have a shelter
May we be mindful of those who are without shelter
May we grow in curiosity and compassion toward those with empty pantries
May we fill the pantries of our neighbors as we fill our own

If we are sick, may we stay home
May we grow our resolve to grant all workers this same right
May we make small decisions mindful of the great impact they may have on our community

May we wash our hands
May we wash our hands some more
May we buy only as much hand sanitizer as we need

May we take solace in nature, in open spaces, in fresh air
May we grow our resolve to protect the precious resources of air, water, and land

May we be good friends to one another
May we grow in kindness, patience, and flexibility

May we offer up temporary disruptions in our daily lives
For those whose lives have been disrupted for years

May we wash our hands
May we wash our hands some more

May we be mindful of those who are suffering
May we remember those who have perished

May we be happy
May we be peaceful
May we be free

By [Joanna](https://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/author/jlinwant/) Lin Want

May 1, 2020