



## A PRAYER OF HOPE IN A TIME OF TRIAL

### Opening Prayer

**Leader:** + O God, come to my assistance.

**All:** O Lord, make haste to help me | Glory to the father...

**Leader:** Let us pray.  
God of wholeness and healing,  
you are our reason for hope in troubled times.  
Help us always to replace frustration with peace,  
fear with confidence,  
and loneliness with friendship.  
We as this through Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### Hymn: On Eagles Wings (Michael Joncas)

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in His shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge,  
My Rock in Whom I trust."

**Chorus:**  
And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His Hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under His Wings your refuge,  
His faithfulness your shield.

**Chorus**

## Scripture – Psalm 23

**Leader:** Be with us, Lord, for we are in trouble.

**All:** Be with us, Lord, for we are in trouble.

**Reader 1:** The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
In green pastures he makes me lie down;  
to still waters he leads me;

**All:** Be with us, Lord, for we are in trouble.

**Reader 2:** He restores my soul.  
He guides me along right paths  
for the sake of his name.

**All:** Be with us, Lord, for we are in trouble.

**Reader 3:** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff comfort me.

**All:** Be with us, Lord, for we are in trouble.

**Reader 4:** You set a table before me  
in front of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

**All:** Be with us, Lord, for we are in trouble.

**Reader 5:** Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me  
all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
for endless days.

**All:** Be with us, Lord, for we are in trouble. | Glory to the father...

## Reflection

### Discussion Questions:

1. When you think about the pandemic and our response to it, what most concerns you? What brings you comfort?
2. How can we remain close to each other, to the people we serve, and to God during this time of isolation?

### General Intercessions

**Leader:** Let us now turn our thoughts into prayer for the Church and for the world. Let us pray to Him, saying: Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you became like us in all things but sin; teach us how to share with others their joys and sorrows during this difficult times so that our love may grow deeper every day [*Pause for silent prayer*], We pray to the Lord. **R/.**

**Leader:** Help us to continue feeding the hungry and caring for the sick and the dying with compassionate courage [*Pause for silent prayer*], We pray to the Lord. **R/.**

**Leader:** Inspire us to find ways to support nurses, doctors, public servants, and all those who are risking their lives to keep us healthy, fed, and secure [*Pause for silent prayer*], We pray to the Lord. **R/.**

**Leader:** You raised Lazarus from the sleep of death, grant that those who have died during this crisis may rise again and give their loved ones consolation and peace [*Pause for silent prayer*], We pray to the Lord. **R/.**

**Leader:** Let us take a time of silence to call to mind those people, thoughts, feelings, and moments in our lives that need God the most. [*Pause for silent prayer*].

**Leader:** As we conclude this time together, let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.



**All:** Our Father...

**Leader:** Let us close with the Holy Father's Prayer to Mary

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey  
as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain,  
with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide,  
so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,  
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform ourselves to the Father's will  
and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself,  
and bore our sorrows to bring us,  
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.  
Amen.

**Leader:** We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

**All:** Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test –  
and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

**Leader:** And may almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.