**In Memoriam**

**For the 500,000+ Americans Who Have Died**

**May 28, 2020**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and all are precious in your sight. We remember this night all who have died of the coronavirus throughout the world, especially the more than 500,000 men, women, and children who have died in our country. Accept our prayers on their behalf, and grant them entrance into the land of light and joy. In your boundless compassion console all who mourn. Deal graciously with them in their grief. Surround them with your love, and give them strength to meet the days to come. *Amen*.

 **A Litany for a Time of Pandemic\***

God our Creator,

*Have mercy on us.*

Christ our Redeemer.

*Have mercy on us.*

Holy Spirit our Comforter and Guide,

*Have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, one God,

*Have mercy on us.*

Hear us, O Christ, for all most affected by the coronavirus.

For all who are sick with Covid-19, that they may be healed.

*Hear us, O Christ*.

For doctors, nurses, and all health-care workers, that they may be protected and given strength to withstand the exhaustion of their work.

*Hear us, O Christ*.

For all with conditions that put them at risk, for all who are quarantined, for families with children home from school, for loved ones separated by the virus, that they may know the comfort of your presence.

*Hear us, O Christ*.

For all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Hear us, O Christ*.

For all who grieve, that they may feel surrounded by your love,

*Hear us, O Christ*.

For all who have lost their jobs and livelihood, for all in need of food and shelter, that their needs will be heard and met.

*Hear us, O Christ*.

By your Holy Spirit, strengthen all who work to support our common life;

For all first responders, for teachers, for grocery and drugstore workers, for restaurant staffs and delivery people,

*By your Holy Spirit strengthen them*.

For researchers, scientists, and epidemiologists, and all who work to understand this virus and how best to treat and control it,

*By your Holy Spirit strengthen them.*

For government officials, that they may be wise and compassionate, and may provide abundant resources for those in need.

*By your Holy Spirit strengthen them*.

Creator God, watch over your people who cry out to you.

Give hope to the hopeless, courage to the fearful, peace to the anxious, that we may rest with trust in you.

*Creator God, watch over your people*.

Heal our divisions, teach us to share, and unite us in care for one another.

*Creator God, watch over your people*.

We give thanks for the goodness we see around us, for acts of justice and peace, for those who risk themselves to serve others, for those who hold the world in prayer,

*Creator God, watch over your people*.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal one,

*Have mercy upon us and grant us your peace*.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory. *Amen*

 **The Tolling of the Bell**

 *The bell will toll 100 times, each representing 5,000 people who have died from Covid-19.*

Let us pray.

God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ’s body in the world:
a people who pray, worship,
break bread, share life, serve neighbors,
seek justice, and grow in faith.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God*.

\*Litany adapted from one used by Christ Episcopal Church in Tacoma, WA