

# Worship Resources for the Congregations of the Northeastern Iowa Synod Aftermath of the Flood 2008

## Welcome

This day, we gather together in worship and praise for the God who is with us in the most challenging and difficult circumstances of life. We give thanks that we are here and in the midst of this time together we are encouraged and strengthened for what lies ahead. God's Word and Sacrament nourish and sustain us now and into the future. Thanks be to God.

## A Litany of Praise

L: Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

**P: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.**

L: For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (Isaiah 43:1-3a)

**P: The Lord will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.** (Psalm 27:1-5)

L: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**P: Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

L: though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**P: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

L: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

**P: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

L: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. (Psalm 46:1-7)

## **A Litany of Thanks**

L: Gracious God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, in memory and in hope, we come before you this day to give you thanks for the work you have done in our lives and in our community. You indeed are our refuge and strength.

**P: We give thanks for your faithfulness, O Lord.**

L: Almighty God, the storm and the water have been frightening, and many pieces of our future are uncertain but your hand kept us safe so there was no loss of life.

**P: We give thanks to your steadfast love, O Lord.**

L: Merciful Lord, we have been in great need, and you sent firefighters, law enforcement officers, rescue workers, and many other volunteers who quickly came to our assistance and did your work among us.

**P: We give thanks for your faithfulness, O God.**

L: O God, despite the damage to our homes and community, you have been with us no matter where we have been, helping us in ways we do not even know.

**P: We give thanks for your steadfast love, O Lord.**

L: O Lord, you know there is much to do to rebuild and restore our lives. In the days and weeks ahead, continue to make yourself known to us.

**P: Continue to be our refuge and strength, O God.**

L: Loving Lord, continue to work in our lives. Heal our hearts, comfort our sorrows, and guide us in faith.

**P: Be with us and build us up, O God.**

L: You, O Lord, are the power, the glory, the wisdom, and the strength of all who turn to you. Continue to make us confident in the hope we find in you, O God.

**P: Amen!**

## **Prayers of the Church**

L: O Lord God, divine Creator, you are gracious and merciful and have promised you will hear us when we call upon you in our troubles. We ask for your mercy, help, and guidance during this time of trouble. Lord, in your mercy

**P: Hear our prayer**

L: We give thanks that you have protected us during this disaster. We pray for those who have been hurt, for all who experience loss, and for all who have been affected by the flooding throughout our synod. Let your Holy Spirit comfort and sustain us all. Lord, in your mercy

**P: Hear our prayer**

L: We give thanks for those who have offered their prayers, their support and their assistance. Continue to protect them from all harm. May they be blessed in their service and care. Lord, in your mercy

**P: Hear our prayer**

## **A Benediction**

L: God of all strength and wisdom, on this day of worship and thanksgiving be mindful of your people of this community. Give to all a measure of your goodness, hope, and love so we may continue to praise your name, giving witness to your power and love. This we ask in your holy name.

And let the people say,

**P: Amen.**

## **Additional Bible Passages**

Psalm 9:9-10; Psalm 23:4; Psalm 46:1, 7; Psalm 55:22; Psalm 57:1; Psalm 100:5  
Romans 8:31; Romans 8:37-39

## **Possible Hymns**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”  
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”  
“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

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