

Prayer for Crewmembers Held by Pirates

(Modified from Blessing of A Victim of Crime or Oppression, Book of Blessings)

Minister: In the name of the Father....

All: Amen

Minister: May the grace and peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Throughout history God has manifested his love and care for those who have suffered from violence, hatred and oppression. We commend all crewmembers held by pirates to the healing mercy of God who binds up all our wounds and enfolds us in his gentle care.

FIRST READING:

Minister: Brothers and sisters, Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: (Is 59:6b-8, 15-18)

They hatch adders' eggs, and weave spiders' webs: Whoever eats their eggs will die, if one of them is pressed, it will hatch as a viper; 6 Their webs cannot serve as clothing, nor can they cover themselves with their works. Their works are evil works, and deeds of violence come from their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they are quick to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are destructive thoughts, plunder and ruin are on their highways. The way of peace they know not, and there is nothing that is right in their paths; Their ways they have made crooked, whoever treads them knows no peace.

The LORD saw this, and was aggrieved that right did not exist. He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was none to intervene; So his own arm brought about the victory, and his justice lent him its support. He put on justice as his breastplate, salvation, as the helmet on his head; He clothed himself with garments of vengeance, wrapped himself in a mantle of zeal. He repays his enemies their deserts, and requites his foes with wrath.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 147

Response: How good it is to celebrate our God in song!

**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, gathers the dispersed of Israel,
Heals the brokenhearted, binds up their wounds,**

**Numbers all the stars, calls each of them by name.
Great is our Lord, vast in power, with wisdom beyond measure.**

Response: How good it is to celebrate our God in song!

**The LORD sustains the poor, but casts the wicked to the ground.
Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; with the lyre celebrate our God,
Who covers the heavens with clouds, provides rain for the earth, makes
grass sprout on the mountains,
Who gives animals their food and ravens what they cry for.**

Response: How good it is to celebrate our God in song!

**God takes no delight in the strength of horses, no pleasure in the runner's
stride.
Rather the LORD takes pleasure in the devout,
those who await his faithful care.**

Response: How good it is to celebrate our God in song!

**Glorify the LORD, Jerusalem; Zion, offer praise to your God,
Who has strengthened the bars of your gates, blessed your children within
you,
Brought peace to your borders, and filled you with finest wheat.**

Response: How good it is to celebrate our God in song!

**The LORD sends a command to earth; his word runs swiftly!
Thus snow is spread like wool, frost is scattered like ash,
Hail is dispersed like crumbs; before such cold the waters freeze.
Again he sends his word and they melt; the wind is unleashed and the
waters flow.**

Response: How good it is to celebrate our God in song!

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1: 46-55

**"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit
rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's
lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.**

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

INTERCESSIONS:

Let us pray to the Lord God, the Defender of the weak and the powerless, who delivered our ancestors from harm, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Deliver us from evil, O Lord.

For the crewmembers sailing in dangerous regions, that may be protected from harm to body and soul, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Deliver us from evil, O Lord.

For crewmembers held by pirates, that they may be freed soon, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Deliver us from evil, O Lord.

For the families of the crewmembers, that their loved one's may return safely home, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Deliver us from evil, O Lord.

For all victims of pirate attacks and hijacking, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Deliver us from evil, O Lord.

For an end of all acts of piracy, violence and hatred, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Deliver us from evil, O Lord.

For the pirates who do harm others, that they may change their lives and turn to God, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Deliver us from evil, O Lord.

Prayer of Blessing

(A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched over the person to be blessed; a lay minister says the prayer with

hands joined.)

Lord God,

**Your own Son was delivered into the hands of the wicked,
yet he prayed for his persecutors and overcame hatred with the blood of the
cross.**

**Relieve the suffering of the crews held by pirates;
grant them peace of mind, and a renewed faith in your protection and care.**

**Protect us all from violence of others, keep us safe from the weapons of hate,
and restore to us tranquility and peace.**

We as this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen

Concluding Rite

(Blessing given by priest or deacon)

**May God bless you with his mercy,
strengthen you with his love,
and enable you to walk in charity and peace.**

Response: Amen

**And may almighty God Bless you all, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy
Spirit.**

(Blessing given by layperson)

**May God bless us with his mercy,
strengthen us with his love,
and enable us to walk in charity and peace.**