



This resource is provided to assist congregations in prayer in times of wildfires. The prayers, litanies, and assembly song suggestions could be used in regular weekly worship, in prayer vigils, as part of Morning or Evening Prayer, or devotions at home or in other settings.

Prayer in Times of Wildfire

Holy God, in you alone we find safety and shelter. Be a sure refuge to all suffering from wildfires. Grant courage, protection, and favorable weather to firefighters and emergency responders; embrace with supportive communities all who are newly displaced or homeless; comfort those grieving all that has been destroyed and give patience to those who are anxious, not knowing when relief will come. Heal your whole creation, that out of flame and ashes new growth will spring forth. We pray through Jesus Christ, our life and our strength. **Amen.** (*All Creation Sings*, page 50)

Litany in the Time of Wildfires

This litany may be used to begin a time of prayer among those who are directly affected by devastating wildfires. It may also be used in the gathering time of worship.

O Lord, when we cry out in fear and desperation,
Raise us up from the ashes and hear us.
When fire swallows up our hopes and dreams,
Raise us up from the ashes and help us.
When our lives and livelihoods are consumed by flame,
Raise us up from the ashes and save us.
When smoke clouds our hope and shrouds our joy,
Raise us up from the ashes and give us peace.
In Christ, life springs forth from the dust and ashes.
In Christ, our lives will be raised from the ashes.
In Christ, all things will be made new.
Amen.

Litany in Time of Wildfires

This litany may be used by those who are concerned by the destruction of wildfires. It may be used when a community begins a ministry of assistance or consolation with those affected by wildfires.

O Lord, when fires rage and consume the land,
Stir up in us the fire of your love.
When homes are reduced to embers and ashes,
Stir up in us the fire of your love.
When families are displaced and tomorrow is uncertain.

Stir up in us the fire of your love.

Calm the anxiety that turns us in on ourselves.

For in you, O Lord, is new life.

Grant us faith to trust that even the dust will live by your breath.

For in you, O Lord, is new life.

Extend our lives in service that we might fan the flames of hope.

For in you, O Lord, is new life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Litany in Time of Wildfires

This litany may be used by those who are concerned by the destruction of wildfires.

Holy God, in the wake of fires that devour and consume,

Refresh us with the water of life.

In the barren places of ash and dust,

Restore us with the water of life.

When all we can see is devastation and despair,

Renew us with the water of life.

In Christ, we are washed clean.

We are refreshed.

In Christ, we drink from the wellspring of hope.

We are restored.

In Christ, we dance in the fountain of life.

We are renewed.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Additional Prayers

God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pastoral Care*, page 386)

We pray to you almighty God, in this time of _____. You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Do not let us fail in the face of these events. Uphold us with your love, and give us the strength we need. Help us in our confusion, and guide our actions. Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril; for the sake of your great mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. (*ELW Pastoral Care*, page 386-7)

O most loving Father, you want us to give thanks in all circumstances and to lay all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us. Grant that fears and anxieties in this mortal life may not hide from us the light of your immortal love shown to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (*ELW Pastoral Care*, page 359)

God our comforter, you are a refuge and a strength for us, a helper close at hand in times of distress. Enable us so to hear the words of faith that our fear is dispelled, our loneliness eased, our anxiety calmed, and our hope reawakened. May your Holy Spirit lift us above

our sorrow to the peace and light of your constant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (*ELW Pastoral Care*, page 360-361)

Direct us, Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (*ELW Pastoral Care*, page 362)

O God, full of compassion, we commit and commend ourselves to you, in whom we live and move and have our being. Be the goal of our pilgrimage, and our rest by the way. Give us refuge from the turmoil of worldly distractions beneath the shadow of your wings. Let our hearts, so often a sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (*ELW Pastoral Care*, page 363)

A prayer of Thomas à Kempis

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly graven that no prosperity, no adversity, shall ever move me from your love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, a very present help in trouble, and a guide to heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life. (*ELW Pastoral Care*, page 362)

Hymn Suggestions

The following is a list of suggested hymns that may be appropriate in a variety of communities affected by wildfires. Pastoral discretion is necessary when determining which hymns might best be used.

ELW 701	Once We Sang and Danced
ELW 702	You, Dear Lord
ELW 618	Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
ELW 626	By Gracious Powers
ELW 639	When We Are Living (Pues si vivimos)
ELW 698	How Long, O God
ELW 699	In Deepest Night
ELW 405	O Spirit of Life
ELW 404	Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove
ACS 996	Watch, O Lord
ACS 1015	As a Mother Comforts Her Child
ACS 1017	Come to Me, O Weary Traveler
ACS 1022	God, Bless the Hands
ACS 1023	God Alone Be Praised
ACS 1026	In the Midst of Earthly Life
ACS 1027	Don't Be Afraid
ACS1029	In the Peace of God Find Rest
ACS 1033	Nothing Can Trouble/ <i>Nada te turbe</i>
ACS 1034	When It Seems the Day Will End
ACS 1035	Though the Earth Shall Change

ACS 1049 Before the Waters Nourished Earth
ACS 1050 Sometimes Our Only Song Is Weeping
ACS 1052 When Our World Is Rent by Violence
ACS 1054 God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn
ACS 1055 Ayúdanos, oh Dios/*Oh, Help Us, Save Us*
ACS 1069 God Bestows on Every Sense
ACS 1072 Abba, Abba, Hear Us
ACS 1073 Kyrie eleison

Additional hymns may be found in the LAMENT, HEALING, and HOPE, ASSURANCE sections of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and *All Creation Sings* hymns.

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