A Litany of Remembrance, Healing, and Hope

Sisters, Brothers, and Siblings: God commands us through Jesus Christ to love one another. Having renewed our baptismal vows and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we lift our voices with people of faith offering prayers of remembrance, healing, and hope for our communities, our nation, and the world.

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Our world has been forever changed by the global pandemic and the spread of COVID-19. From the depths of our hearts, we bring our collective grief as the death toll related to COVID-19 surpasses 100,000 in our nation and more than 360,000 worldwide. We pray for the souls of the departed and for all who mourn.
Living God,
be with us in our pain.

We pray for those suffering with the coronavirus who are hospitalized and facing death alone without family or friends present to offer comfort or loving embrace.
Living God,
be with us in our pain.

We pray for those facing the devastating effects of unemployment; for individuals, children and families who now face food insecurity and homelessness.
Living God,
be with us in our pain.

We pray for individuals suffering with mental illness for whom isolation and the impact of social restrictions during this health crisis have resulted in fear, emotional, and psychological distress. Grant them your guidance and knowledge of your healing presence.
Living God,
be with us in our pain.

We pray for our nation in this time sorrow as we confront our failure to respect the dignity and life of every human regardless of race.
Living God,
be with us in our pain.

We pray for leaders of the nations that barriers and divisions may cease that continued efforts to combat the coronavirus will benefit the human family. For all in authority in our nation, especially Donald, the President and the Congress, Governors and Mayors, that unified in purpose they will respond to the needs of all people during this troubled and critical time in our common life with wisdom, compassion, and justice.
Merciful God,
heal our brokenness.
We pray for an end to the injustices of racism, poverty, and economic inequality, that separate us one from another leaving communities of people disproportionately vulnerable to the disease and death of COVID.
Merciful God,
*heal our brokenness.*

We pray for an end to the inhumanity and hatred in our nation that destroys lives and betrays our sacred humanity. Hear the cries of those who feel powerless and invisible, whose lives are threatened by the legacy of slavery and institutional racism—help us to bring this legacy to an end.
Merciful God,
*heal our brokenness.*

We pray for an end to the unrest in our cities and for a return to peace on the streets of our communities, breaking the cycle of violence that is injustice. Transform the hopelessness, frustration, anger, and pain into a movement toward a more just future where all persons are recognized and treated as sacred - created in the image of God.
Merciful God,
*heal our brokenness.*

We pray for first responders, healthcare and essential workers, who with hearts of service, continue to provide care for the sick and services to sustain the safety and daily needs of our communities. Help us always to express love and compassion for one another.
Loving God,
*give us hope.*

We pray for scientists and researchers around the world as they combat the virus, that their work may lead to the development of safe and effective treatments and a vaccine in the coming months.
Loving God,
*give us hope.*

We pray for our young people and the new generation of leaders that they may be freed from prejudice and work to heal and bind our nation, that united in love we may celebrate and honor the diversity of races and cultures.
Loving God,
*give us hope.*

We pray for the Church, that it may not grow weary of proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and serve as a beacon of justice, hope, and love to a suffering world.
Loving God,
*give us hope.*

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us carry forth the hope of our faith.
Concluding Collect
Hear our prayers, O God. Heal, restore, and give us hope. Fill us with your peace. In all things remind us of your love, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.