SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | ACTS 12.1-19

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

God speaks to you, his people - with words of comfort and peace:

"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"

The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46

CONFESSION / ASSURANCE

Merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you and your holiness.
You have shown us the path of life in your Word, and we have chosen to walk another way -
proving that we doubt your goodness and wisdom.
We seek release from stress by giving in to lustful desires,
rather than finding rest in prayer with you.
We run to earthly comforts before setting our minds on things above.
We compare ourselves to others and sin against them -
wanting to prove that we are better, more beautiful, more valuable, more desirable.
We don't trust that our value is found in you.

Forgive us Lord, and heal us.

Now hear the good news of the gospel:

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:3-7

Christians - the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior has come! Jesus has given his life in exchange for yours, and God has poured out his Holy Spirit on you when you were unworthy of his presence. You now have the hope of eternal life - given freely to you because you have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

LITURGICAL INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Lord God, you promised that you would send times of refreshing from your presence as we wait for your Son Jesus to restore all things.

So, as those who believe in your promise we cry:
Lord, send revival.

For the church in our city, that she would be filled with all the fullness of Christ
Lord, send revival.

For our neighborhoods and our places of work
Lord, send revival.

For those in our city who do not know the saving power of your Son Jesus
Lord, send revival.

For those in need of healing, those who are oppressed, and those bound in darkness
Lord, send revival.

Against systems of injustice, built to oppress the weak and exalt the strong
Lord, send revival.

Lord, as we seek you, send times of refreshing from your hand--that we might be witnesses in this world for your glory.

Lord, send revival.

HOUSTON - HURRICANE HARVEY INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Sovereign God,
you hold all things together by the word of your power.

We come to you today on behalf of those who have experienced great devastation and loss because of Hurricane Harvey.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who have lost.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who mourn because of death.
Lord, give comfort.

For those who are pouring themselves out to serve.
Lord, give strength.

For those entrusted with the work to rebuild.

Lord, give wisdom.

For your church in these places.
Lord, give your presence.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

God has proven to us that he will hear us when we pray, and that he will intervene.

Go now - sent by his spirit - and cry out to him with desperation, asking him to heal all of the broken things in our city and in this world. Amen.