

# Prayer for the People of Afghanistan

## Opening:

O God, come to their aid.

O Lord, make haste to help them.

## Introductory Prayer:

O Lord, in the depths of their helplessness

we pray for our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan.

They are gripped in a situation where human help and hope seem to ebb away.

We cry out with them and for them.

In their depths of fear and hopelessness sow seeds of trust and courage.

In solidarity, we offer our prayer and our own troubles

in union with the Passion of Jesus

that shoots of truth and justice may spring up in their country,

that amid the clamour, voices of moderation and mercy may be heard

and a common humanity acknowledged.

Amen.

## Scripture Readings:

### **First Reading (Lamentations 3: 17-26)**

My soul is bereft of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, "Gone is ... all that I had hoped for from the Lord." The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall. My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." the Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

### **Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 72: 3-4, 7-8, 12-14; Response: Psalm 130: 1-2)**

*Response: Out of the depths, I cry to you, O Lord. Lord hear my voice!*

1. May the mountains bring forth peace for the people,  
and the hills justice.  
May he defend the poor of the people,  
and save the children of the needy. **Response**

2. In his days justice shall flourish,  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the river to earth's bounds. **Response**
  
3. He shall save the poor when they cry,  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak,  
and save the lives of the poor. **Response**
  
4. From oppression he will rescue their lives,  
to him their blood is dear. **Response**

#### **Gospel Acclamation (2 Corinthians 1: 3-4)**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort,  
who comforts us in all our affliction.

Alleluia, alleluia.

#### **Gospel (Mark 4: 37-39)**

And a great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

#### **Concluding Prayer:**

O my Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I offer You all my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day  
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.  
I offer them for the intentions of Your most Sacred Heart  
and in these days especially for  
the safety and wellbeing of our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan.  
Move the hearts of their new government to deal justly with them  
and to respect their right to freedom of worship.  
Move us to support them by our prayer and practical action on their behalf.  
Amen.