Keep us, good Lord,

under the shadow of your wings of mercy

in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,

and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may rejoice in your comfort

knowing that nothing can separate us from your love

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

God of compassion,

be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;

in their anxiety, be their hope;

in their darkness, be their light;

through him who suffered alone on the cross,

but reigns with you in glory,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Loving Lord,

We pray for all who are struggling with mental health during this difficult time.

Draw close and pour out your gifts of comfort and peace we pray,

so we may be assured that in whatever ways we suffer,

we are not alone.

Thank you that you promise never to leave us or forsake us.

Thank you that you are greater than anything we face.

Amen.

Gracious God,

give skill, sympathy and resilience

to all who are caring for the sick, the elderly and the vulnerable,

and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.

Strengthen them with your Spirit,

that through their work many will be restored to health and know your comfort;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord and giver of all talents,

We pray for all key workers busy on our behalf,

risking their well-being to enable life for the many to continue.

We pray for all on the frontline of healthcare, all care workers and social workers,

all police officers and firefighters, all minsters, funeral directors and refuse collectors.

We thank you for each one.

We pray for your protection over them and their families,

and we ask you to bless them.

Please enable all the necessary equipment to get to where it is needed.

Amen.

Lord Jesus,

You stood at the tomb of your friend and wept.

We pray that you will draw close to all who mourn, that you will enfold them in your loving arms and comfort them.

May they know a tangible sense of your presence with them as they grieve, and that you are with them always.

Amen.

Lord Jesus,

in your earthly life you worked as a carpenter.

We pray for all whose work has been drastically changed or come to an end,

and for all who cannot work.

We pray too for all employers and those who are self-employed working hard to keep their businesses going.

We pray for all who are worried about money.

May government support get to where it needs to be.

We ask for your spirit of generosity and grace to abound, resources be shared, new plans created, and burdens lifted.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,

you taught us to love our neighbour,

and to care for those in need

as if we were caring for you.

In this time of anxiety,

give us strength to comfort the fearful,

to care for the sick,

and to assure the isolated of our love,

and your love.

Amen.

We are not people of fear,

we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety alone,

we are people who protect our neighbours’ safety.

We are not people of greed,

we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,

giving and loving,

wherever we are,

whatever it costs,

for as long as it takes,

wherever you call us.

Amen.

And so we gather all our prayers together, those spoken, and the silent ones we’ve said in our hearts, bringing before God every family represented here in our community in Alsager and online as we say together the family prayer that Jesus taught us

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Short passages from the bible**

Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and my salvation

Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength.

Psalm 121 God is our helper and protector

Psalm 139 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me

Isaiah 43 I have called you by name

Matt 6 v 25 – 34 Do not worry about your life, God cares for you.

Phil. 4 v 4 – 8 God’s peace will guard you hearts

**Personal Prayers**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
‘I am with you always’.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Amen

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
I place in your hands my unfinished tasks, unsolved problems, and hopes,
knowing that you continue your work to bless me.
To your love and protection I commit myself and all those I love,
knowing that you alone are my sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Christ be with me, Christ within me,

Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,

Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

*(from St Patrick’s Breastplate)*

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