



A Prayer Remembering September 11, 2001

We remember, mighty God of history and remembrance. We remember when the twin towers fell and the lives were lost; we remember the dust and the smoke, the despair, and the grief. We remember that sense of vulnerability and shock. We remember the numbness that overwhelmed us as we watched our screens for hours and hours, waiting for an explanation and understanding that never came.

We remember, comforting God of hope and presence. We remember the heroes, those who rushed to help, who guided the wounded down innumerable flights of stairs, who rose to overwhelm those who held death in their hands. We remember the hours and the days of binding wounds and healing hurts, giving comfort, drying tears. We remember words of support and compassion from nations far and wide.

We see the destructive waves of that terrible day continue to impact our world twenty-three years later, and wonder if there will ever be an end to tragedies like this . . . to violence,

to war, to hatred, to death. We grieve our world's inability to learn the things that lead to peace.

We call to You now in our remembrance, all knowing and ever-present God of justice and of peace. Give us a will to truly pray that Your kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven, and depend on You for all things.

On this day of solemn remembrance, may we honor the lives that were lost in this tragic act, giving thanks for those who served and saved, rendered aid and assistance. Help us continue to comfort to those who live with loss. Enable us to seek justice and peace where it is within our ability, and rely on you when that ability eludes us.

Heavenly Father, on this day of solemn remembrance, may we build what has been torn down, mend what has been broken, live in Your love when hate seems to reign, and bear witness to the source of true and perfect peace that passes all human understanding: You, Christ our Savior. May we never forget that You Jesus, are our mighty fortress, our ever-present help and comfort, in even the worst of times, and the One who covers us with Your amazing grace and love for all eternity. In Your most precious name, Jesus, we pray ... Amen.