

PRAYING THE NEWS:

Ways to pray before, during, and after

Scripture:

Psalm 23

Psalm 27

Psalm 34

Psalm 61

Psalm 121

Hymns:

on trust: **Amazing Grace**

Lord of All Hopefulness

When Peace Like a River

on hope: **O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

When Peace, Like a River

on love: **Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak**

Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult

As people of faith, the watching, listening to, reading, and discussing the news offers us an opportunity to pray. Prayer is a positive, life-giving response to the news. Prayer lifts our concerns before God, asks for help and guidance, and helps us find a faithful response, no matter what the news presents.

Here are some suggestions on ways to pray before, during, or after the news. On the back page are some suggestions about scripture passages and hymns that may be useful.



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God, bring help quickly!

God, protect this family!

Before

Pray that God will help you see each news item through the lens of faith, hope, and charity.

God, help me to remember you are already present in all places, people, and situations. Help me to know everything in today's news is already in your care. Fill me with trust and faith as I watch the news this morning.

God, help me remember your promise that you bring new life out of pain, suffering, and death. Fill me with hope as I listen to the news tonight.

God, help me remember your commands to feed your sheep and love my enemies. Cleanse my heart and mind from judgments and easy answers. Fill me with your compassion and love as I prepare to read the news now.

During

During the news, watch for opportunities to thank God for moments of mercy, acts of justice or kindness, or beauty, awe, and creativity.

Thank you, God, for the relief workers who arrived so quickly.

Praise God for this new law that increases support against human trafficking!

When the tragedies are reported, voice your prayer for God's mercy.

As photos of damaged homes fill the screen, you turn immediately to prayer: Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy!

As details of a bombing are relayed, you respond immediately with prayer: Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy!

When specific needs are described, offer a prayer immediately.

After

Speak to God about your thoughts and feelings about the news. Ask for help with feelings like fear or anxiety or despair. Ask for forgiveness for moments when you felt hatred or judgment. Say thank you for the moments when you felt deep trust in God, hope, and love.

God, forgive me for judging the woman in the story about the house. Help me to deepen my compassion for those in need.

God, the news is making me feel frightened and helpless right now. Help me transform my fear in trust in you. Help me transform my sense of helplessness into compassion.

God, thank you for the compassion I felt after hearing about the flooding.

Pray for one or more situations in the news. Commit to praying for it several times over the next 24 hours.

God, hold the people of Haiti in your care as they recover from Hurricane Matthew. Help the rescue crews reach them with clean water, food, and shelter. Protect them from the spread of disease. Help people, congregations, organizations, and countries be generous in responding to their need.

Ask God for guidance for any response you might make to a story in the today's news.

Jesus, you were moved with compassion at the sight of people in need. Today as I read the news, I was deeply moved by the racial injustice in two stories. God, help me see what you are calling me to do here. Help me find concrete ways to help bring about your kingdom where mercy and justice roll down like a river (Amos 5:24). Guide me God; I am listening.

