Prayer of Lament

O God, you are our help and strength, our refuge in the time of trouble. In you our ancestors trusted; They trusted and you delivered them. When we do not know how to pray as we ought, your very Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. We plead for the intercession now, Gracious One.

For desolation and destruction are in our streets, and terror dances before us. Our hearts faint; our knees tremble; our bodies quake; all faces grow pale. Our eyes are spent from weeping and our stomachs churn.

How long, O Lord, how long must we endure this devastation? How long will destruction lay waste at noonday? Why does violence flourish while peace is taken prisoner? Rouse yourself! Do not cast us off in times of trouble. Come to our help; redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love.

For you are a gracious God abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

By the power of the cross, through which you redeemed the world, bring to an end hostility and establish justice in the gate. For you will gather together your people into that place where mourning and crying and pain will be no more, and tears will be wiped from every eye. Hasten the day, O God for our salvation. Accomplish it quickly! Amen.


The publisher hereby grants permission to local churches to reproduce this prayer, provided it is not sold or distributed beyond the church and provided the credit line noted above is used on each copy.