



**PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11**



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**September 11, 2021  
Diocese of Trenton  
Diocesan Chancery**

## **INTRODUCTION: BISHOP**

911. For years, those numbers simply meant a call for help. Now they also remind us of September 11, 2001, the date of the worst terrorist attack on the United States of America and one of the deadliest days ever on American soil. To mark the twentieth anniversary of 9/11 today in 2021, we invite the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Trenton – especially those among us who lost loved ones on that fateful day or the days that followed – to join in prayer with us as we remember all those who were impacted by the tragedy *(From USCCB)*.

## **FIRST READING: Romans 14:8-9**

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.  
For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.  
For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The Word of the Lord.  
**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

## **PSALM RESPONSE: PSALM 130**

Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption  
**ALL: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption**

Out of the depths, I call to you, LORD;  
Lord, hear my cry!  
May your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.

### **ALL: RESPONSE**

If you, LORD, keep account of sins,  
Lord, who can stand?  
But with you is forgiveness  
and so you are revered.

### **ALL: RESPONSE**

I wait for the LORD,  
my soul waits  
and I hope for his word.  
My soul looks for the Lord  
more than sentinels for daybreak.

## ALL: RESPONSE

### GOSPEL: A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (John 11: 21-27)

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."  
Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise."  
Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day. Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"  
She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### REFLECTION: BISHOP

**BISHOP:** Let us pause and remember (long pause).

**FIRST READER:** **This date, 9-11, carries a heavy burden of memory.** This day does not pass in the calendar without our remembering. We remember images of death and destruction. Images that human eyes were never meant to see. We remember words our ears were never meant to hear, the tender last words of husbands and wives who would never embrace again.

We imagine the feeling of emptiness in the arms of children who at the end of the day could not find mom or dad for their welcome home hug. We remember our own feelings of emptiness as our sense of security, as our own confidence in the predictable order of life and work was radically shaken. We remember (pause) ...

**SECOND READER:** **This date, 9-11, carries a heavy burden of memory.** We remember the heroism of the many that lost their lives in saving others. We remember all those who suffered and died, we grieve for them still, friends and strangers alike, along with their families and friends. We remember (pause) ...

**THIRD READER:** **This date, 9-11, carries a heavy burden of memory.** And it is right that it should not pass from our memory. But today and in this prayer, along with our remembrance of profound loss, it also seems right that we give voice to our deep longing for peace, and with this prayer, commit ourselves to those actions that will draw us closer to our most ancient and most holy desire, peace among all God's children. We remember (pause) ...

*(The preceding remembrances From Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York)*

**BISHOP:** Let us lift our prayer to the Father as the Lord Jesus taught us.

**ALL:** *Our Father, who art in heaven ...*

**BISHOP:** Let us pray (*Adapted from the Prayer of Pope Benedict at Ground Zero, 9/11/15*)

**BISHOP:** O God of love, compassion, and healing, look on us, people of many different faiths and traditions, who remember the scenes of incredible violence and pain, 20 years ago, in New York City's World Trade Center; in Washington, DC's Pentagon; and in the fields of Shanksville, PA.

**ALL:** We ask you in your goodness  
to give eternal light and peace  
to all who died —  
the heroic first-responders:  
our fire fighters, police officers,  
emergency service workers, and transportation personnel,  
along with all the innocent men and women  
who were victims of this tragedy  
simply because of their work or service or travel  
on September 11, 2001.

**BISHOP:** We ask you, in your compassion  
to bring healing to those  
who, because of their presence in three now sacred places on that day,  
suffer from injuries and illness.  
Heal, too, the pain of still-grieving families  
and all who lost loved ones in this tragedy.  
Give them strength to continue their lives with courage and hope.

**ALL:** God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world: peace in the hearts of all men and women and peace among the nations of the earth. Turn to your way of love those whose hearts and minds are consumed with hatred.

**BISHOP:** God of understanding,  
overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy,  
we seek your light and guidance  
as we confront such terrible events.  
Grant that those whose lives were spared  
may live so that the lives lost here  
may not have been lost in vain.

**ALL:** Comfort and console us,  
strengthen us in hope,  
and give us the wisdom and courage  
to work tirelessly for a world  
where true peace and love reign  
among nations and in the hearts of all, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

**BISHOP:** The Lord be with you. **ALL:** And with your spirit.

**BISHOP:** May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain with you forever and ever. Amen. Be at peace!

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!