Typhoon Haiyan Prayer Service

Opening Prayer
Leader: God of Compassion, hear our prayers for our brothers and sisters who are suffering from Typhoon Haiyan that devastated the cities of Tacloban and Ormoc, and the northern coast of Panay Island in the Philippines. We ask You to bless us with compassion as we pray for relief from suffering of the survivors and eternal peace for those who have died. We ask this in the name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 91: 1-2, 14-15b, 15c-16
Leader 1: You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, Say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”
Leader 2: Because he clings to me, I will deliver him; I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in distress.
Leader 3: I will deliver him and glorify him; with length of days I will gratify him and will show him my salvation.

Scripture Reading  Mark 4:35-41
That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Prayers of Petition
Leader: Gracious God, we pray for the people affected by the typhoon that devastated much of the eastern Philippines. Be a source of strength and courage during this time of distress and destruction, and a refuge and comfort to all who suffer and grieve at this time, we pray,

All: God of Hope, hear our prayer.
Leader: For the relief workers as they assess damage and assist victims as they begin the journey of recovery, we pray,

All: **God of Hope, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the nations, churches, emergency aid workers, relief organizations, military personnel, and all in the international community providing aid to those in need, we pray,

All: **God of Hope, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who have died as a result of these natural disasters and for those who mourn them, we pray:

All: **God of Hope, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all of us gathered here, that we might come to a fuller appreciation for the gifts in our lives; and that we may seek out ways to serve our brothers and sisters in need, we pray,

All: **God of Hope, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God, the giver of all good things, we ask your blessing on ourselves and especially on those on the other side of the world for whom we have prayed. May You hold them, and us, in the palm of Your hand. **Amen.**

**Concluding Prayer**

Leader: Let us conclude in prayer together:

All: **Merciful God, who in your great love and goodness hears the prayers of all your people and is ever-present with those who walk in the shadow of death, we hold in our prayers all who suffer loss and devastation in the wake of the recent typhoon in the Philippines. Comfort those who mourn. Give hope to those whose hope has been taken away. Strengthen the will of people everywhere to generously give help and aid. Guide governments and agencies leading relief efforts. We pray this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for the life of the world. Amen.**