

2011 World Refugee Day- June 20, 2011

Prayer:

Gracious and compassionate God, we lift our prayers to you, most Holy, who has led many people out of their birth land and into new home lands. Embrace and protect refugees fleeing from persecution and violence, searching for a safe and secure home in unfamiliar lands. Provide churches and each of us the strength to minister to refugees as we provide care, compassion and community to newcomers. May all refugees one day be at home and be able to live a blessed and bounteous life. In your name we pray, Amen.

Scripture: *"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."*

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:34-40

Benediction:

Now let us go forth to serve, welcome and bless our neighbor. As Jesus freely poured out his life for us, may we freely share our lives with those gathered in our community so that no one would be a refugee anymore. We pray in the name of the all-merciful, ever hospitable Jesus. Amen.



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Litany for 2011 World Refugee Day

Leader: *As the sun rises at the beginning of each day,*

People: Gracious God, let the dawn of hope rise and grow brighter for refugees who flee for their lives.

Leader: *As the sun warms the drops of dew from the ground,*

People: Gracious God, dry the tears of sorrow and heartbreak from the faces of people created in the image of God.

Leader: *As the creatures of the earth sing their songs of praise,*

People: Gracious God, let the song of peace and reconciliation swell from the throats of people in every nation.

Leader: *As a mother responds with compassion to the cries of her child,*

People: Gracious God, hear the cries of refugees and come to their aid.

Leader: *As men and women head off to their places of employment,*

People: Gracious God, bless those who labor to alleviate of the suffering of refugees.

Leader: *As families and friends gather together for meals,*

People: Gracious God, provide daily bread for refugees to fill their stomachs and clean water to quench their thirst.

Leader: *As children welcome their parents home,*

People: Gracious God, let nations open their arms with hospitality for those without a place to call home.

Leader: *As foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests,*

People: Gracious God, may refugees find safe homes where they may rebuild their lives once more.

All: Creator of heaven and earth, as you renew the world each day, look with favor upon refugees who long for a home, and inspire all people to build communities of hope where all are free to dwell in peace and safety.

(Litany provided by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services)

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