

Emergency Prayer for Türkiye & Syria

It was just six days ago, last Monday, that the massive earthquake devastated South-Central Türkiye (Turkey) and North-Western Syria. Since then, as you all know, tens of thousands have died.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed, hard to know how to pray, but today we have specific prayer requests sent in from fellow Christians in the disaster zone itself. At the end of each prayer, I will say 'God of all mercy, have mercy', using the ancient Greek phrase 'Kyrie Eleison', after which I invite you to respond with its English translation – 'Lord, have mercy'.

Leader: God of compassion, You who weep with those who weep and mourn with those who mourn, hear the countless cries rising to you from Türkiye and Syria today. So many lives have been shattered, so many hearts broken, and we feel overwhelmed. But You are a mighty Saviour: so we ask You now to save. God of all mercy, have mercy. *Kyrie Eleison.*

Church: *Lord have mercy.*

Leader: King of kings, we pray today in line with 1 Timothy 2:2 for President Erdoğan of Türkiye and al-Assad of Syria, that their governments will cut through bureaucracy, leading courageously and granting free access to the aid agencies seeking to serve on the ground. God of all mercy, have mercy. *Kyrie Eleison.*

Church: *Lord have mercy.*

Leader: Prince of Peace and God of shalom, in the chaos of this crisis we cry out for divine connections and a spirit of cooperation instead of competition. Would you supernaturally streamline the important relationships between NGOs and suppliers, churches and other agencies for the sake of those who are suffering the most. God of all mercy, have mercy, *Kyrie Eleison.*

Church: *Lord have mercy.*

Leader: Holy Spirit, You who brooded over the formless void and created order, protect and provide for those who are grieving, those who are homeless, and those bringing emergency relief. I pray also for Your church in these ancient Bible lands. Anoint Your people at this time 'to bring good news to the poor and... to bind up the broken hearted' (Is. 61:1). God of all mercy, have mercy. *Kyrie Eleison*.

Church: *Lord have mercy.*

(OPTIONAL)

Leader: We gather these prayers in the Lord's Prayer, asking that Christ's Kingdom would come in Syria and Türkiye, that those bereaved would know the Father's love, that daily bread would be distributed and that those displaced would be delivered from evil. And so we pray:

**Church: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen**