We ask Your forgiveness for all we do, think, and say which falls short of Your command to us to love one another.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us,

**And help us to show mercy to one another.**

A Litany in Response to an Act of Mass Violence

*Composed by Anna Howell, a member of Saint Christopher’s Church, Spartanburg, SC, in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

God the Father, You gave the Law that Your people might live in peace,

**Have mercy upon us.**

God the Son, You suffered violence for the sake of the world,

**Have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit, You bind us together in a community of love,

**Have mercy upon us.**

Holy Trinity, One God, You model for us the perfect and holy relationship in which You intend for all people to live:

**Have mercy upon us.**

For all victims of violence, and particularly for those affected by the shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have been injured, that they might be restored to health, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are afraid, that they may know Your perfect love which casts out fear, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who mourn, that they may be comforted in their distress, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer**.

For all who have died, that they may be received into Your compassionate embrace, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer**.

For the first responders, firefighters, chaplains, nurses, and all others who work to restore order, heal the wounded, and care for the needs of the community, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all volunteers who give of their time and resources to meet the needs of those affected by this tragedy, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For leaders, both in the Church and in the government, who strive for greater peace, compassion, and understanding in the world, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the world may one day be free of violence, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That war and bloodshed may one day be no more, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may no longer desire revenge when we are wronged, but Your justice, which is mercy and grace, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That each of us might be empowered and equipped to work toward a just and peaceful society, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all people might be united to seek the cause of Your Kingdom, we pray to You, O Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We ask Your forgiveness for the ways in which we ourselves are complicit in the systemic problem of violence in the world.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We ask Your forgiveness for any harm we have done to one another.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We ask Your forgiveness for any unkind words we have spoken against one another.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We ask Your forgiveness for any prejudice, bitterness, or hate we harbor in our hearts.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We ask Your forgiveness for any ill we have wished upon one another.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We ask Your forgiveness for the times when we have repaid evil for evil.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We ask Your forgiveness for the times when we have been slow to forgive.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**