

Prayer for a memorial service for the tragedy at Virginia Tech

God of Mercy and Might,

We as a nation have been shocked, sickened, saddened, and angered this past week by the shootings in Blacksburg on the campus of Virginia Tech. Words fail us. Our minds and hearts continue to reel. We are only beginning to grasp the horror of it all and we make no claim today at understanding this tragedy.

But today, we gather together to mourn the loss of so many lives, so many young lives; to grieve with all those who have lost family, friend, neighbor, and colleague; to be one with those whose hearts are bursting with pain; and to pray for those who are inconsolable, for those bearing loss beyond bearing. Be with them and be with us.

We pray together that you would make your presence felt; that in some small measure those most hurting would know your presence; that their burdens of loss and pain might be experienced as shared with you; and that you would bring comforters, those who will bear, cry and sit with those who are hurting. May we your church be to them a faithful presence.

We remember together the many lives so tragically taken, as well as those lives given that others could live. We remember also their families and friends left behind. Grant that they may somehow experience your grieving presence, and that the process of healing may begin. In our remembering, we have been encouraged by the grace and strength shown by the Virginia Tech community in the aftermath of the tragedy. Continue to strengthen them and help them to continue to find hope and strength in one another.

We have gathered together, to pray together, to remember together, and to call upon your name together as we cling to the hope of your promises that sorrow, evil, tragedy, and death do not have the last word and that nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. In life and in death, now and always, we place their lives and ours into your loving hands.

Amen.