

Prayer of Confession

L: God, it is not a year abundant with hope.

P: We cry out for solace, for rest, for strength; we curse in anger at the horrors we see perpetrated in your name.

L: We turn our backs on those who suffer, and we scorn those who bring suffering upon others.

P: We are lost and demoralized, aching for the hope in your Word, and yet when you speak, we do not hear.

L: We do not quiet the spirit within or allow your peace to fall upon us. We root ourselves in devastation when true strength is born out of your tender grace.

L: Forgive us, God, for abandoning hope in favor of fear and a desire for retribution.

Words of Grace

L: God does not turn us away when we falter.

P: We are, instead, taken in and given sanctuary so that we may revive in God's tender mercy.

L: God will be our shelter while we rest, as well as when we are ready, once again, to rise up.

P: Thanks be to God!