

Suggested ELCA Litany* for use with Noah Bible Study

Litany – storms/floods*

O Lord, when the waters rage and foam,
Still the storms and grant us your peace.
When the gift of creation becomes burden,
Still the storms and grant us your peace.
When our fears threaten to overtake us,
Still the storms and grant us your peace.
Speak your word to the wind and to the water,
Fill us with faith.
Show us your care in the service of others,
Fill us with compassion.
Make the joy of your peace overflow in our lives,
Fill us with hope.

Genesis 6:9 and 13 – 7:10, 9:8-10

6:9These are the descendants of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. **13**And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. **14**Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. **15**This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. **16**Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. **17**For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. **18**But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. **19**And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. **20**Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. **21**Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten; and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them. **22**Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

7:1Then the Lord said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. **2**Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; **3**and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. **4**For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” **5**And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him. **6**Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. **7**And Noah with his sons and his wife and his son’s wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. **8**Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, **9**two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. **10** And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth.

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9:8Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, **9**”As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, **10**and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. **11**I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

Prayer –

Loving God, we come to you trusting in your mercy and knowing that your steadfast love endures forever. Look with mercy on those who are harmed or displaced by flood waters. Give them your strength to meet the days ahead, your peace which passes all understanding and new hope in the resurrection. Move in those who are able to give aid, that we may be your hands and heart on the earth. Be with all who offer assistance, may your Spirit uphold them. As you have made water a sign of your kingdom, and of cleansing and rebirth, grant your people vision to see new life on the other side of disaster. To you be given all honor and praise, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen*

Bible Study Questions

- 1. What does God tell Noah will happen? What can we learn about disasters from this story?**
 - Going to be a flood; this is a predictable disaster, i.e. hurricanes, slow-rising flood waters, etc.
 - Noah has time to prepare for the flood
 - Do all disasters/crisis give us time to plan & prepare?

- 2. When was there a time in the history of your congregation where preparedness was important or may have been helpful?**
 - Illness in worship service
 - Natural disaster that impacted your church structure, congregational members, your pastor, etc.

- 3. In what ways is Noah to prepare for the flood?**
 - Build an ark - Identify a shelter location
 - Gather supplies
 - Prepare his family
 - Prepare the animals
 - Identify those he is to care for
 - Store supplies – make a kit

- 4. How might families in your congregation and/or your congregation take steps to prepare for disaster, emergency, crisis?**
 - Individual preparedness plans, build 'to go' kits, EDITH, etc.
 - Congregation Disaster Plan
 - Fire drills for Sunday School
 - Connect with local emergency response organizations
 - CPR/First Aid training for ushers, others.

- 5. Who/What sustains Noah in this time of disaster?**
 - God, his faith,

- 6. Who/What helps to sustain you, others affected by a disaster/crisis?**
 - Walk with God
 - Family
 - Pets
 - Places of safety
 - Food
 - Warmth/clothing

- 7. As people of faith how might we offer peace in chaos to disaster victims?**
- Spiritual care
 - Shelter
 - Food
 - Prayer
- 8. Where do Noah and his family find themselves after the flood?**
- Top of a mountain
 - Recipients of God's promise – new covenant
 - New normal
 - After a crisis or disaster things do not return to 'Normal' but to a "new normal".