

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

CWS Blankets

PRAYER

Gracious God, you have given us so many good gifts and today we are sharing these gifts with our neighbors.

Bless these blankets that they give warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy and healing and hope wherever God's people may need care.

Bless the givers of these blankets. May they demonstrate your love to all people.

Bless Church World Service while they are delivering the blankets on our behalf.

Bless the lives of all who will receive these blankets, let them know your love. Amen.

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CWS Blankets

A LITANY FOR A BLANKET SUNDAY

LEADER: We have come together today to offer our gifts of blankets to be distributed by Church World Service to places where disasters have occurred, where people are on the move and where basic resources have grown scarce. As we dedicate these gifts, let us join in prayer.

PEOPLE: God of compassion, hear our prayer.

LEADER: Jesus said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

PEOPLE: God of love, you created us to love you and to love one another.

LEADER: God of promises, you remind us again and again that you are present with your people.

PEOPLE: God is good to all and has compassion for all creation.

LEADER: God of warmth, you are with our neighbors who are cold and need comfort.

PEOPLE: May my gift of a blanket shelter families from the cold and help to keep them warm.

LEADER: God of hope and promises, you remind us of your rainbow and of your love for all people.

PEOPLE: May my gift of a blanket give hope and promise to survivors of floods, hurricanes and other emergencies.

LEADER: Gracious God, bless these blankets, that they might bring comfort to those who need it. Bless those who will receive these blankets. Let them know your love through these gifts.

PEOPLE: May the blankets we offer today contribute to this sacred work, and may those who receive these blankets sense your loving kindness and find their hope renewed.

LEADER: God of compassion, renew us in hope and service as we offer our gifts and our lives to you.

ALL: Amen.

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INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We worship a God who gives generously and abundantly. God has given us so many blessings. The food we eat, the friends and family we cherish and the precious gift of God's love for us. When that love abides in us, we are called to help keep our neighbors warm.

Through this special offering for Church World Service Blankets, we join other people of faith to make God's love known to our neighbors who might feel forgotten—the hurting and the lonely. Our gifts, together, provide hope to our neighbors all over the world. Please give generously.

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PRAYER OF BLESSING (POST OFFERING)

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Bless the givers of these blankets. May they demonstrate your love to all people.

Bless Church World Service while they are delivering the blankets on our behalf.

Bless the lives of all who will receive these blankets, let them know your love.

Amen.

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A BLANKET PRAYER (RESPONSIVE READING)

LEADER: Gracious and loving God, we come before you with open hearts, ready to receive your love.

PEOPLE: Hear our prayers for all who need your tender touch in their lives.

LEADER: We pray for those who feel trapped in a winter without end—those without warmth, without food, without a home, without work, without hope. Help us to share what we have so that they may know your love through our actions.

PEOPLE: Hear our prayers.

LEADER: Keep our hearts and hands focused on mission and ministry, that we may serve our neighbors with compassion and care.

PEOPLE: Hear our prayers.

LEADER: Guide us as we seek to build a world of peace, hope and love—the world you created and desire for all people.

PEOPLE: Hear our prayers.

LEADER: We ask your blessing on these blankets we offer today. May they bring warmth, comfort and hope to those who receive them. And may all who have given to this ministry know the joy of sharing your love.

PEOPLE: Bless Church World Service as they distribute these blankets on our behalf.

LEADER: In your name, O God, we pray.

PEOPLE: Amen.