

A Prayer of Sorrow and Healing

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: The news that the remains of 215 children have been found on the grounds of the former Kamloops Residential school is difficult to hear, and even more so for the parents, families, and communities of the deceased to bear. With sorrowful hearts, we turn to God in prayer, knowing that "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

Heavenly Father, from whom human sadness is never hidden,
our hearts are filled with sorrow and our souls are deprived of peace
over the finding of the remains of children at the Kamloops residential school.
As we walk this painful journey with our Indigenous brothers and sisters,
listen to our prayers and unite us in our work of reconciliation.

Mercifully grant that the children,
whose deaths were undocumented and whose passing has now been recognized,
may be welcomed into the light and peace of your kingdom.
May they find the fullness of your charity and love, and live in the joy of eternal life.

Bring healing and comfort to the parents and families of the deceased children.
Grant that, freed from years of silence and uncertainty,
they may be lifted from the depths of their grief.

Instill in our current leaders and in all of us,
the courage to face our shared history
and the desire to forge a new path of justice and healing.

May our respect for one another also lead to acts of human solidarity and bring about
spiritual and social change for the good of all.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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All: Amen