

Common Prayer

Preface

The Synodal Council of the Evangelical Reformed Church of the Canton of Vaud, the Roman Catholic Ecclesiastical Federation of the Canton of Vaud, and the Jewish Community of Lausanne and the Canton of Vaud unite with us in prayer in the face of the tragedy that occurred in Crans-Montana, which has affected young people and families from here and elsewhere, of every confession, every religion, every nationality.

O God, faced with the magnitude of the tragedy in Crans, the suffering of so many, and our own sense of helplessness, we begin by keeping silence before you.

Sustained silence

We pray to you for all the families, from near and far, plunged into the terrible uncertainty of not knowing whether their children are alive, who fear they are between life and death, who are separated from them while they are cared for far from home.

Heavenly Father, Hear the cry of pain and hope rising from each and every one.

Silence

Among the victims, many were apprentices, high school students, university students. We pray to you for their friends, so deeply affected by this misfortune on a night that was meant to be a day of celebration and friendship.

Heavenly Father, Hear the cry of pain and hope rising from each and every one.

Silence

We pray with gratitude for all those who have given of themselves without counting the cost since the tragedy: firefighters, police officers, doctors, medical staff, crisis teams, volunteers, politicians, investigators.

Heavenly Father, renew in each and every one the strength and discernment needed to make decisions in this crisis.

Silence

We entrust to you all those who, in these times, are victims of tragedies—known or unknown—who are overwhelmed, destitute, having lost all bearings.

Heavenly Father, grant that each and every one may find at their side people who listen, support, and show compassion.

Silence

Blessed are you, who call us in our communities, our canton, our country, to unity beyond our confessional, religious, political, or identity differences. May this communion shape our way of being together not only in these days of mourning, but throughout all the years you grant us to live.

Silence

This tragedy, and so many others, shakes our faith. We feel small and fragile, powerless in the face of the suffering of this tragedy and so many others, which sometimes give rise in us a deep sense of absurdity.

You who are the Source of all blessing and who surpass all understanding, You who hear the cries of the victims and do not fear the doubts of humankind, we pray to you: preserve us from uttering, in such circumstances, easy and conventional consolations, and remind us of your boundless love, which alone can lift up those who are cast down. Grant us to believe that nothing can separate us from your love.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Father of heaven and earth, for your Word which lights our path as the cloud once accompanied your people in the desert.

Amen.