

Sharing Jesus One Plate of Food at a Time

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we ask for protection and guidance as we face the aftermath of natural disasters. The winds, floods, and fires all change our lives so quickly and we respond with fear and despair. The feeling of hopelessness is overwhelming when we see our homes in ruins and our livelihood shattered. It is the promise of Your love and protection that gives us strength during these times. We thank You for the care given in the aftermath of natural disasters. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

All: *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake (Psalm 23:1–3).*

Leader: When disaster strikes, we remember with the psalmist that the Lord is our shepherd. He is caring for us and giving the protection we need to continue. Our Shepherd sends volunteers who respond with the love of Jesus.

All: *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me (Psalm 23:4).*

Leader: Our home is destroyed. We have no fresh water to drink or food to eat. There is no electricity. Everything seems hopeless as we look at the damage around us. We search for precious belongings and wonder where we can find a meal to eat. It is then that we turn to our Shepherd and realize our comfort will come from Him. The hand of Jesus is outstretched as people come into our community with a mobile kitchen and begin to prepare a hot meal to distribute.

All: *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows (Psalm 23:5).*

Leader: As we see the damage around us, we feel like we have been attacked by the forces of nature. But then we see the hand of God among us as volunteers come into our community and help with the cleanup. We begin to feel hope and can see that our lives will be rebuilt. The love and concern of Your people give us new direction.

All: *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23:6).*

Leader: The storms have destroyed our earthly possessions, but we are reminded that our greatest possession is the love our Savior has for us. We join in prayer and lay our troubles at the feet of Jesus. Through volunteers, help is given to guide us where we may find assistance in the days ahead. The most important gift we are given is the Word of God. That Word will sustain us and guide us as we rebuild our earthly life but continue to keep our focus on the redeeming love of Christ.

Hymn: “Children of the Heavenly Father” (LSB 725)

Leader: Many of us have never suffered from the aftermath of a flood, hurricane, or tornado. There are many who do, especially in the Gulf States Region of the United States. Hurricanes come with fierce winds and torrential rains. We are thankful for the ministry of Forged by Fire based in LaCombe, Louisiana. Their volunteers come into a community and set up a kitchen to prepare hot meals. The mobile kitchen allows them to quickly initiate serving the people in need. In one evening, 900 meals may be distributed. That plate of food is a special gift from Jesus. The prayers offered and devotionals and Bibles given point to the care of a loving Savior. Hope is restored and lives are rebuilt.

All: Dear God, we give thanks to You for the work of Forged by Fire Services. Help us to respond with Your love to those people in need around us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

2023–2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 6

MOBILE KITCHEN

FORGED BY FIRE SERVICES | \$85,000