

Prayer Service for Peace

Opening Song: *Peace is Flowing Like a River*

1, 5. Peace is flowing like a river,
flowing out of you and me.
Flowing out into the desert,
setting all the captives free.

2. Love is flowing like a river,
flowing out of you and me.
Flowing out into the desert,
setting all the captives free.

3. Healing's flowing like a river,
flowing out of you and me.
Flowing out into the desert,
setting all the captives free.

4. Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.

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Leader: Friends, we gather here as God's family, called to be peace makers in today's world. May we enter into this time now conscious of our higher calling and open to God's voice within and among us.

All: In the name of God. Amen.

Reader 1: Ephesians 6:14-15

Reader 2: A Reflection based on the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* from the Second Vatican Council.

Peace is more than the absence of war, more than the maintenance
of a balance of power between enemies.
It is more than the firm hold of a dictator
that for the moment, involves no bloodshed.
But then, what is peace.

We believe that peace is the result of justice. When society is rightly ordered
when people live as God intends, then peace reign.
But while this is true, we also realize that peace
must be constantly built up,
human nature must be called again and again to make peace.
But even this is not sufficient.

We believe further,
that peace comes, in the end, from love.
Unless people willingly come together
to share their talents and bright minds, peace cannot be achieved.
Love goes beyond what justice can achieve.

When we love our neighbors, even those who irritate us or alienate us,
then we give peace its only chance.
All of this loving attitude and behavior connect us to Christ
who is the only one who can bring real peace.

Forgo violence, speak with love, and defend the weak—
for then you are in Christ and the peace of the world is at hand.



From the word of the Church.

All: Thanks be to God for this teaching.

Sharing: **Share your answer to this question with one or two people sitting near you.**

When have we encountered or seen injustice? When have we seen justice served?

Leader: O Mary, Queen of Peace, we stand in solidarity with you and Jesus Christ.

All: Help us see the way to peace.

Leader: Guide us, we pray, to be conscious of our world and its many needs.

All: Give us the courage to witness to Christ.

Leader: In all we say and do may we be people of peace.

All: In our homes, and in our family

Leader: Stir up within us the desire to take the actions needed
to establish peace on earth in these days of turmoil and hatred
no matter what personal cost there may be in doing so.

All: May we do this work as we are called to do everything - in love and faith.
Amen.

Leader: God, we ask your help with our needs. Our response is: *Hear us, loving God.*

Reader:

For the church and its leaders, may they promote a just society which reverences the life of each person, we pray:

For all Religious men and women that they might serve and live in peace, we pray:

For our world, may those who initiate war have a change of heart and grow to respect all people,
we pray:

May all people seek to live justly, and love and honor one another, we pray:

For all those who have died, that they may now live in the arms of God, we pray:

Leader: Loving God, this week we honor the lives and ministry of Catholic Sisters who seek to treat each person as your Son and Daughter. Help them to be faithful to your Word and to have the heart to reject oppression. Call others to follow them in their ministry so that the world might be transformed into a haven of peace and justice for all humanity.
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Let us pray the beatitudes.

Left side: Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
The poor in Spirit know they need God. They know they are nothing without God's life in them.

Right side: Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Those who mourn have loved and have given to God who or what they loved.

Left side: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
The meek stand solely for Jesus, the one and only that has power to transform and heal the land.

Right side: Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
One who truly hungers and thirsts for righteousness does not give up. They know and trust God who alone is the righteous one, who alone can satisfy their hunger and their thirst and can make all things right.

Left Side: Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy
Forgive us, Father, as we forgive. One can only show mercy when they know that they too are in need of mercy. God's unending mercy is our only hope of Salvation.

Right Side: Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
We cannot serve two masters

Left side: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
*God sent Jesus to create a world where peace will flourish.
Those in union with God, Jesus and the Spirit, are God's children and will be God's instruments to bring peace into the world.*

Right Side: Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
Righteousness comes before self. It is not about me. It is for the sake of Christ crucified who gave his life for us, that we join him in persecution.

All: Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The father of evil lives in this world but Jesus has conquered the darkness. Great is the reward for those who stand firm in Jesus.

Closing Song: *Let there be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, fam'ly all are we.
Let me (us) walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

(Text: Sy Miller, 1908-1941, Jill Jackson, © 1955, 1983, Jan-Lee Music)