

PRAYER FOR PEACE

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

All: Amen.

Hymn **Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand.
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Text: Prayer of St. Francis; adapt. by Sebastian Temple, b.1928, © 1967, OCP Publications.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Lord Jesus, give us stillness of soul in you. Let your mighty calmness reign in our hearts. Help us to be at peace. Amen.

Readings

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Reader: While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

Reader: Then Jesus said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection

Reader: A reading from the Testament of Saint Francis of Assisi

And after the Lord gave me brothers and sisters, no one showed me what I should do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the form of the Holy Gospel. And I had this written down simply and in a few words and the Lord Pope confirmed it for me. And those who came to receive life gave to the poor everything which they had and they were content with one tunic, patched inside and out, with a cord. And we had no desire for anything more. We were simple and subject to all.

Reader: And I used to work with my hands, and I still desire to work; and I firmly wish that all my brothers and sisters give themselves to honest work. Let those who do not know how to work learn, not from desire of receiving wages for their work but as an example and in order to avoid idleness. And when we are not paid for our work, let us have recourse to the table of the Lord, seeking alms from door to door. The Lord revealed to me a greeting, as we used to say: "May the Lord give you peace."

Silent Reflection

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: We now place these prayers before our loving God:

Reader: For Christians and all people of good will, may they never lose hope in the possibility of peace, we pray to the Lord.

Reader: For leaders of nations, that the power of the Holy Spirit might grant them the wisdom to always seek justice and peace, we pray to the Lord.

Reader: For the young everywhere: may they grow in courage to seek the peace God offers the world, we pray to the Lord.

Reader: For people in war torn areas of the world, that they might be protected from harm and that they might know freedom and peace in their land, we pray to the Lord.

Reader: That our families will always be schools for peace, we pray to the Lord.

Reader: For those who have died, especially those who have died in war, may the Lord accept them into his loving presence, we pray to the Lord.

Leader: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, we now offer the prayer that Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father...

Closing Prayer

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you who are called the Prince of Peace, who are our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us your peace. Banish from our hearts whatever might endanger that peace, and may the longed-for peace of our world blossom forth and reign over us all, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Sign of Peace