

An Order of Service for Compline for Peace

Opening sentence: BCP, 127

Confession: BCP, 127

Reader: A reading from the book of the prophet, Isaiah:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Our psalm today is Psalm 85, verses 7 to 13, found on page 709 in the BCP.

Psalm 134 with Gloria: BCP, 131

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

When Jesus^{*} saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^{*} on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of St. Francis: Make me a Channel of your Peace

Versicles and Responses: BCP,132

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The Lord's Prayer: BCP, 132

Collects/Prayers:

Prayer #4: For Peace; BCP, 815.

Prayer #3: For the Human Family; BCP, 815.

Prayer #25: For those in the Armed Forces of our Country; BCP, 823.

A period of silent prayer follows.

Litany for Peace

Intercessor: Our Father in heaven, slow to anger, and of great mercy, lover of all the people of the earth,

People: Hallowed be your Name.

Intercessor: We live in a violent world; nations are at war, families rebel, people nurture hatred and malice. Surround all your children with your presence; **People: Your kingdom come.**

Intercessor: Grant to your children throughout the world, and especially to the leaders of the nations, the gift of prayerful thought and thoughtful prayer; that, following the example of our Lord, we may discern what is right, and do it; **People: Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Intercessor: Help us protect and provide for all who are hungry and homeless, especially those who are deprived of food and shelter, family and friends, by the tragedy of war. Turn our eyes and our hearts to their needs and give us courage to act for their good; **People: Give us this day our daily bread.**

Intercessor: Forgive us for neglecting to seek peace and pursue it, and more ready to make war than to make peace. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves; **People: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Intercessor: Let us not seek revenge, but reconciliation; let us not delight in victory, but in justice; let us not give ourselves up to pride, but to prayer; **People: Lead us not into temptation.**

Intercessor: Be present to all your children ravaged by war, especially in Syria and Iraq. Be present to those who are killing and to those who are being killed. Be present to the loved ones of those who are killing and to the loved ones of those being killed. Shelter them in the warmth of your love and safeguard them from the evil that rages around them; **People: Deliver us from evil.**

Intercessor: Work within our world, and within each of us, to nurture tenderness, forgiveness, caring and peace. Use us as agents of change. Show us your truth; **People: For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Adapted from Women's Uncommon Prayers; Life Prayers, and Prayers for Ordinary Time

Antiphon: BCP, 134

Song of Simeon followed by the Antiphon: BCP, 135

Closing: BCP, 135

Blessing: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Num 6:24-26)