



## Praying for Peace

*Officiant:* Our help is in the Name of the Lord;  
*People* **The maker of heaven and earth.**

*Officiant:* Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **People: Amen.**

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Clergy and People*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father: We have sinned against you,  
through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us all our offenses;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Officiant:* God love you and have mercy upon you; through the cross of Christ, pardon you and set you free. God forgives you, forgive others, and forgive yourself. In the name of God, the Source, the Word, and the Spirit. **People: Amen**

*Officiant:* O God, make speed to save us.  
*People:* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Officiant and People:* **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*All read together:* **Psalm 85: 7-13**

*Qui habitat*

**7 Show us your mercy, O LORD, \*  
and grant us your salvation.**



- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.**
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear  
him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.**
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.**
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Deacon:* 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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## A Litany for Peace

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

**People: Hallowed be your Name.**

**Leader:** Though we live in a violent world we pray steadfastly for your heavenly peace on earth.

Surround all your children with your presence; **People: Your kingdom come.**

**Leader:** Grant to your children throughout the world, especially to the leaders of our nation, 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.**

**Leader:** Help us protect and provide for all your children who are in need. 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.**

**Leader:** Forgive us for neglecting to seek peace and pursue it. 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.**

**Leader:** 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.**

**Leader:** Be present to all your children ravaged by violence. Be present to those who use violence and those harmed by it. Safeguard our brothers and sisters in law enforcement who step into the violence to bring peace. Shelter us all in the warmth of your love and bring peace to your people; **People: Deliver us from evil.**

**Leader:** Work within our world, and within each of us, to nurture tenderness, forgiveness, caring and peace. Use us as agents of change, lights of your love, and channels of your peace. **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*

*Officiant:* Lord, have mercy.

***People:* Christ, have mercy.**

*Officiant:* Lord, have mercy.

*Officiant* Lord, hear our prayer;

***People* And let our cry come to you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant:* O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **People: Amen.**



*Hymn of St. Francis: 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

*Refrain:* 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

*Refrain*

Make me a channel of Your peace  
It is pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

*Officiant:* Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **People: Amen.**

*Officiant:* Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.  
**People: Amen.** *(Prayer of St. Clare)*

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**People** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!