

World Day of Peace (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) Liturgies



The theme of Peace may be woven into the Liturgy during the Introductory Greeting and by choosing the Alternate Opening Prayer (which refers to the Prince of Peace), at the General Intercessions, during the Homily, by choice of music, and by using the Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II if this choice seems pastorally appropriate.

Alternate Opening Prayer

Let us pray [in the name of Jesus, born of a virgin and Son of God]

Father,
Source of light in every age,
the virgin conceived and bore Your Son
who is called Wonderful God, Prince of Peace.
May her prayer, the gift of a mother's love,
be Your people's joy through all ages.
May her response, born of a humble heart,
draw our Spirit to rest on Your people.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. +Amen

General Intercessions

For the Church, that we may be a witness to Christ's love by practicing charity and promoting justice and peace throughout the world, we pray to the Lord. . . .

For peace throughout the world and for an end to violence and hate; we pray to the Lord:

For the people of Iraq and Afghanistan that they might find strong support from the global family as they seek to rebuild their nations, we pray to the Lord

That our families will always be schools for peace; we pray to the Lord...

For a world in which every child has access to food, clean water, shelter, education, health care, and all other basic rights, we pray to the Lord...

For all of us, that we may teach youth by our own example to be courageous in working for peace, justice and the common good, we pray to the Lord...

For world leaders and all citizens of the world, that we might recognize the dignity of every human person and the sacredness of all life, even the lives of our enemies, we pray to the Lord

Homily suggestions

First Reading - Numbers 6:22-27

The first reading is full of the same affection reflected in Pope Benedict's 2012 World Day of Peace message. God looks upon God's people with love and favor, desiring peace and blessings.

Dear young people, you are a precious gift for society. Do not yield to discouragement in the face of difficulties and do not abandon yourselves to false solutions which often seem the easiest way to

overcome problems. Do not be afraid to make a commitment, to face hard work and sacrifice, to choose the paths that demand fidelity and constancy, humility and dedication. Be confident in your youth and its profound desires for happiness, truth, beauty and genuine love! Live fully this time in your life so rich and so full of enthusiasm. (#6)

Second Reading – Galatians 4:4-7

In the second reading, Paul affirms our identity as children of God. It is difficult for many people to see beyond their failings to find our own innate beauty as children of God. We cannot find that beauty in others without first finding it in ourselves.

The grateful recognition that life is an inestimable gift, then, leads to the discovery of one's own profound dignity and the inviolability of every single person. Hence the first step in education is learning to recognize the Creator's image in man, and consequently learning to have a profound respect for every human being and helping others to live a life consonant with this supreme dignity. (#3)

Gospel Reading - Luke 2:16-21

(from *Education for Justice*) The birth of a child is a sign of hope – hope not just for the parents and immediate family, but also for the whole community. The life of Mary of Nazareth is a sign of hope – not just because her faith made her holy, but also because it says something to us all. Can we bring that hope into our world by our commitment to justice?

The Solemnity of Mary is a sign of hope to the world. It is a sign that we can give birth to a new vision – the vision of Jesus in the world – a vision of Justice and Peace – a vision of freedom and liberation from oppression – a vision of social change and concern for the common good – a vision of a world without racism and prejudice – a vision of a new economy focused on people and a responsible use of the earth's resources – a vision of a world that respects ethnic and racial diversity – a vision of a world that can move beyond war and terrorism -- a vision of God present in the poor child and the holy young woman of Nazareth – a vision of God to be found in all the people and things of our world and especially among the poor.

In the gospel the shepherds come to see the child in the lying in the manger. This child is a concrete image of the peace to which God calls us – a peace that contrasts with all the images of power, weaponry, and violence that prevail in our world.

“Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity.”⁸ We Christians believe that Christ is our true peace: in him, by his Cross, God has reconciled the world to himself and has broken down the walls of division that separated us from one another (cf. Eph 2:14-18); in him, there is but one family, reconciled in love. (#5)

Peace, however, is not merely a gift to be received: it is also a task to be undertaken. In order to be true peacemakers, we must educate ourselves in compassion, solidarity, working together, fraternity, in being active within the community and concerned to raise awareness about national and international issues and the importance of seeking adequate mechanisms for the redistribution of wealth, the promotion of growth, cooperation for development and conflict resolution. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”, as Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:9). (#5)

Music on the Topic of “Peace”

Key: GIA (Gather, Gather Comp, Ritual Song, Worship)
OCP (Music Issue, Breaking Bread, JourneySongs, Spirit & Song)
WLP (We Celebrate; Word & Song)

All Who Hunger – GIA resources)
At Evening – David Haas (GIA hymnals)
Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death (GIA hymnals)
Bearers of Peace – Farrell (OCP hymnals)
Blest Are They – David Haas (GIA but many hymnals)
Bring Forth the Kingdom – Marty Haugen (GIA hymnals)
Canticle of Zechariah (all hymnals – see Morning Prayer)
Christ Be Our Light – Farrell (most hymnals)
Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race (GIA hymnals)
Dona Nobis Pacem (traditional; most hymnals)
For the Beauty of the Earth – traditional (most resources)
For the Fruits of This Creation – traditional (OCP & GIA hymnals)
For the Healing of the Nations (most hymnals)
Go Make a Difference – Angrisano/Tomaszek (OCP hymnals)
God Is Love – Chiusano (OCP hymnals)
God of Day and God of Darkness – Haugen (most hymnals)
He Came Down – Camaroon traditional arr. John Bell (GIA hymnals)
Healer of Our Every Ill – Haugen (GIA hymnals)
Help Us Accept Each Other (GIA hymnals)
How Can I Keep From Singing (most hymnals)
I Come With Joy (text by Wren (WLP and GIA hymnals)
In Christ There Is No East Or West (most hymnals)
Let There Be Peace on Earth (most hymnals)
Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace (WLP hymnals)
O God of Every Nation (GIA hymnals)
O God of Love (GIA & WLP hymnals)
One Bread, One Body – Foley (most hymnals)
Peace (Norbert/Weston Priory (WLP & OCP hymnals)
Peace For Our Times - Wentz (WLP hymnals)
Peace Is Flowing Like a River (most hymnals)
Prayer of St. Francis/Make Me a Channel (most hymnals)
Send Us Your Spirit – Haas (most hymnals)
Somos El Cuerpo de Cristo /We are the Body of Christ – Cortez (many hymnals)
Ubi Caritas - Taize, Hurd and others (most hymnals)
We Are Called – Haas (most hymnals)
We Are the Light of the World (most hymnals)
What Does the Lord Require (GIA hymnals)
Where Charity and Love Prevail - (most hymnals)
With One Voice – Manalo (OCP hymnals)
World Peace Prayer – Haugen (GIA hymnals)

See also the following psalms: Ps. 72: Every nation on earth/Justice shall flourish in his time
Ps. 85: Lord, let us see your kindness, Ps. 122 I rejoiced/Let us go rejoicing
Ps. 131 My soul is still