

Prayer around the Cross | Prayers for our World

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Gathering

Litany of Forgiveness

We come before our God, who is full of compassion,
to ask forgiveness and mercy.

When in our excesses we consume more than our share
while others go with basic needs unmet:

Forgive us, merciful God.

When we are blinded by our affluence
and fail to reach out in care and concern:

Forgive us, merciful God.

When we are overwhelmed by desires to acquire
and consume more than we need:

Forgive us, merciful God.

When possessions cloud our view of you
and your gracious love:

Forgive us, merciful God.

Silence

We Sing & Pray

Be Still and Know

2

Christ Our Peace

5

Dona Nobis Pacem

ELW 753

Silence

Prayer for Our World

Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world, that their cries
for daily bread may inspire works of compassion and mercy among those to whom
much has been given. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for schools and centers of learning throughout the world, for those who lack access to basic education, and for the light of knowledge to blossom and shine in the lives of all God's people. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for an end to the divisions and inequalities that scar God's creation, particularly the barriers to freedom faced by God's children throughout the world because of gender; that all who have been formed in God's image might have equality in pursuit of the blessings of creation. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the health of women, children, and families around the world, especially for an end to maternal and child mortality, that in building healthy families, all God's people may be empowered to strengthen their communities and repair the breaches which divide nations and peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for an end to pandemic disease throughout the world, particularly the scourges of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis; that plagues of death may no longer fuel poverty, destabilize nations, and inhibit reconciliation and restoration throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for an end to the waste and desecration of God's creation, for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people, and for communities and nations to find sustenance in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all nations and people who already enjoy the abundance of creation and the blessings of prosperity, that their hearts may be lifted up to the needs of the poor and afflicted, and partnerships between rich and poor for the reconciliation of the world may flourish and grow. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We Hear God's Word

Psalm 95

A Call to Worship and Obedience

¹ O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

- ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- ³ For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
- ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
- ⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
- ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!
- ⁸ Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
- ⁹ when your ancestors tested me and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
- ¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation and said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways.”
- ¹¹ Therefore in my anger I swore, “They shall not enter my rest.”

Silence

Prayer around the Cross | Praying for Our World

During this time you are invited to light candles and place them in the bowls around the cross as you pray. You may sit in silence or join in singing at any time.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

ELW 751

Prayer Prompts:

For the lands and waters of the Earth...

For those who work for an end to war...

For those who serve in international aid organizations...

For ELCA World Hunger...

For Lutheran Disaster Response...

For the United Nations and its work toward unity and peace...

For scientists studying our world...

Silence

We Sing & Pray

Though the Earth Shall Change

#42

Sending

Blessing*

May the dust of the wilderness hold our footprints lovingly
shaped as they are by our hurt for dust remembers

May the journey into wilderness unfold honestly
for honesty is the gift our soul recognizes as us

May your time in this wilderness be shaped by space
rather than minutes so there is time enough for all of us

May the stones in this wilderness cry out your name loudly
that our spirit recognizes the voice that has been calling us always

And may you know this wilderness has been expecting you
and us find between the stones a promise growing. Amen.

We Go Forth in Peace

You are invited to share signs of peace with others as you depart. You are welcome to stay to pray in silence.

A Few Notes on the Service

Our Lenten journey this year invites us into spiritual practices and encounters with prayer through music, silence, and with intention gathered around the cross.

On Singing

Each song will be repeated multiple times. Some songs may be sung in a round, others in unison, and in some cases you may choose to hum with the music instead of singing.

On Silence

Silence is hard for us, and yet, often in silence we find peace and we are able to listen for God's voice. You are encouraged to step out in faith and embrace the silence. Try to shut out the events of the day and be fully present in the silence.

On Praying Around the Cross

You are welcome to offer prayers as you feel moved to do so. We will provide prompts for prayers to aid you in your prayers. You are welcome to light a candle for each petition, or one candle for all of your petitions. You may move between your seat and the cross more than once during this time. When you are seated, we invite you to sing or hum to the music as you are comfortable. You may also choose to sit in silence.