

# **Prayer around the Cross | Prayers for Peace**

**Wednesday, March 22, 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

Peace, Be Still

# 34

### **Silence**

## **Prayer of Peace**

Lord, we pray for peace for those who weep in silence,  
peace for those who cannot speak,  
peace when all hope seems to disappear.

*Silence is kept.*

In the midst of rage, of violence and disappointment,  
In the midst of wars and destruction of the earth,  
Lord, show us your light in the darkness.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord, we pray for peace for those who raise their voices to demand it,  
peace when there are many who do not wish to hear of it,  
peace as we find the way to justice.

*Silence is kept.*

Keep your church free,  
that it may be the channel through which justice and peace,  
integrity and wholeness, harmony and goodwill  
may flow to the dispossessed and the desperate,  
that your kingdom may come in all its fulfillment of life and health and  
peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Silence**

## **We Hear God's Word**

### **Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

### **Silence**

### **Prayer around the Cross | Praying for Peace**

*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 end to war...*

*For those who work to end human trafficking...*

*For those who work to foster peace...*

*For world leaders...*

*For judges and law enforcement professionals around the world...*

### **Silence**

### **We Sing & Pray**

**Dona Nobis Pacem**

**ELW 753**

## **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.*

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### **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.*