

(Evening) Prayer Service for Peace and Unity*

To serve as a template for Intentional Prayer on Friday, September 9th, 2016, Memorial of St. Peter Claver,
Priest

Opening Song or Hymn (Consider any well-known song or hymn text that focuses on hope or peace. The assembly will “find their voice” through the text of the music selected. Texts emphasizing discipleship and the works of mercy are also most appropriate.)

Begin

May the God of peace, compassion, and justice be with you.

+In the name of the Father...

R. And with your spirit.

Opening Prayer

No one is far from you, O God. We come together in joy, mindful of the burdens we carry, the hurts and sorrows we have. We come together in gladness, never forgetting God’s love. We come together with praise, for each other and those who assist us on this journey.

No one is far from you O God and we call upon your power in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

OR (Collect for the Memorial of St. Peter Claver, from the *Roman Missal*, 3rd edition)

O God, who made Saint Peter Claver a slaves of slaves, and strengthened him with wonderful charity and patience as he came to their help,

grant, through his intercession,

that, seeking the things of Jesus Christ,

we may love our neighbor in deeds and in truth.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

OR (from original prayers drafted for *Masses for Various Needs and Occasions*, ICEL)

God ever just,

you hear the cry of the poor; you break the power of the oppressor

and set the downtrodden free.

Change inhumanity to compassion

and let the desires of the affluent

yield to the needs of the poor.

Turn our hearts to the way of the gospel, that peace may triumph over discord

and our justice mirror your own.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm (Suggested setting of Psalm 22, 23, 25, 51, 85, 88, 103, 121, 131. Any musical or

**Adapted and created using resources from eBreviary.com, in addition to Liturgies of Lament (J. Frank Henderson, Liturgy Training Publications ©1991 and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops resources for the September 9, 2016, National Day of Prayer to Promote Peace in our Communities,*

www.usccb.org/news/2016/16-095.cfm/

recited setting of one of these psalms would be appropriate **OR** spoken psalm setting, below.)

Psalm 22:24-27 R: The family of nations will worship in the presence of the Lord.

You who fear the LORD, give praise!
All descendants of Jacob, give honor;
show reverence, all descendants of Israel!

R: The family of nations will worship in the presence of the Lord.

For he has not spurned or disdained
the misery of this poor wretch,
did not turn away from me,
but heard me when I cried out.

R: The family of nations will worship in the presence of the Lord.

I will offer praise in the great assembly;
my vows I will fulfill before those who fear him.

R: The family of nations will worship in the presence of the Lord.

The poor will eat their fill;
those who seek the LORD will offer praise.
May your hearts enjoy life forever!”

R: The family of nations will worship in the presence of the Lord.

Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16 (proclaimed by a Lector, from the ambo)

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace:
one Body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

And he gave some as Apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the extent of the full stature of Christ so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming.

Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body’s growth and builds itself up in love.

**Adapted and created using resources from eBreviary.com, in addition to Liturgies of Lament (J. Frank Henderson, Liturgy Training Publications ©1992 and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops resources for the September 9, 2016, National Day of Prayer to Promote Peace in our Communities, www.usccb.org/news/2016/16-095.cfm/*

OR consult Matthew 5:43-48 *Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you*

Homily (*optional*) **a reflection on the scripture selected** **OR** (*optional*) **a choral or solo reflection about peace and unity** **OR**

Intercessions: *Use the petitions listed below, or select a set of petitions from www.cathdal.org/worshipoffice/resourcesforpeace*

Response: Lord hear our prayer *The response to each petition may be sung instead of recited. There are musical settings of the Response to the Prayer of the Faithful available in several languages. Contact the Office of Worship for suggestions.*

That those who lead nations will find peaceful solutions to solve disagreements over borders, religious preference, or ethnic diversity, (*pause briefly*) we pray...

For peace in our families, in our local community, and in the world, (*pause briefly*) we pray...

For the ability to advance peace in our local communities, one kindness at a time, (*pause briefly*) we pray...

For an end to racial tension and violence in all of our nation's communities, with help and hope from the Holy Spirit, (*pause briefly*) we pray...

For an increase of civil dialogue among city and community leaders, so that the doors of community reconciliation will open wide, neighbor to neighbor, (*pause briefly*) we pray...

That we may be bridge builders and peace persons, brothers and sisters all, (*pause briefly*) we pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord heals our wounds and strengthens us in our weakness; let us pray as Christ has taught us:

All: Our Father... (*recited or sung, as is the tradition of your parish*)

Closing Prayer

Leader: Let us pray:

- 1) Lord Jesus Christ, at noon, when darkness covered all the earth,
you mounted the wood of the cross as the innocent victim for our redemption.
May your light be always with us to guide us to eternal life in that kingdom
where you live and reign forever and ever. **R. Amen** **OR**

- 2) God of justice, you adorned the human race with a marvelous diversity, yet clothed
each of its members with a common dignity that may never be diminished.
Put within in us a respect for that dignity and a passion for the rights which
flow from it,
that we may always champion for others the justice that we seek for ourselves.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. **R. Amen** **OR**

**Adapted and created using resources from eBreviary.com, in addition to Liturgies of Lament (J. Frank Henderson, Liturgy Training Publications ©1993 and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops resources for the September 9, 2016, National Day of Prayer to Promote Peace in our Communities, www.usccb.org/news/2016/16-095.cfm/*

3) Lord, make us instruments of peace on earth.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is discord, unity.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is error, truth.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is sadness, joy.
Where there is darkness, light.
O Divine Ruler, grant that we may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
To be loved, as to love.

Amen. (*Used in the 1985 Christian Service in Memory of the Holocaust, in Toronto. There are many other versions of this prayer.*)

Blessing Leader: may the God who heals
 touch us and our violent world
 and bless us and be with us always, + in the name of the Father... **OR**

 Leader: may the God of peace, of hope, and of unity,
 of mercy, of wisdom, and of grace,
 bless us and remain with us always, +in the name of the Father...

(*Optional after Blessing* Leader: Let us turn to the neighbor nearest us, and offer a Sign of Peace.) **OR**

Dismissal (*Leader or another minister*) Go now and choose love instead of fear,
 responsibility instead of indifference.
 Go forth to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly
 with our God.
 Go forth and work for a world of peace and unity, in which
 all rights are respected and guaranteed.
 R. Thanks be to God.

OR

 Go now to heal and to comfort the afflicted,
 Go to denounce injustice and replace it with love,
 Go to promote understanding and just dialogue,
 Go to accompany the abused and to walk with those
 who have experienced violence.
 Go now to build bridges and tear down the walls that divide us.
 R. Thanks be to God.

Song: Prayer of St. Francis (*or another song with a text that focuses on peace, hope, and unity*)

**Adapted and created using resources from eBreviary.com, in addition to Liturgies of Lament (J. Frank Henderson, Liturgy Training Publications ©1994 and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops resources for the September 9, 2016, National Day of Prayer to Promote Peace in our Communities, www.usccb.org/news/2016/16-095.cfm/*