

Three Litanies for Peace in Our Communities

A litany is petitionary prayer that is easy to follow, and usually has an aspect of *intercession* connected with it. A litany allows the congregation to focus on the *words of the litany text, rather than the response*. A litany can shape devotional prayer that follows it, or happen before/after a time of meditation.

A litany may be used before a Mass begins (before the priest's Sign of the Cross) **OR** before/after/during Morning or Evening Prayer, or before/after devotional prayer, such as the rosary or a chaplet. This litany can also be used as morning prayer for students in Catholic schools, or during faith formation class.

Use as many of the invocations as you wish. You may also ask for group members to add their own invocations to litanies. The Beatitudes can be used as a litany, and are included here.

The Beatitudes

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**

**Blessed are the meek,
for they shall possess the earth.**

**Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.**

**Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they shall be satisfied.**

**Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.**

**Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they shall see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.**

**Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**

Blessed are you when men reproach you,

**and persecute you, and
speaking falsely, say all manner of evil against you,
for my sake,
the kingdom of heaven will be yours.**

Litany for Peace in Our Communities

Based on Psalm 88

*(Suggested response: **God of peace, hear us and help us.**)*

By night we cry out, by day we rage at each other,
God of peace, hear us and help us.

**Calm us, quiet us, settle us,
to hear the cry of those who are hurting,** *God of peace,...*

**Steady us, balance us, ground us,
let us listen to the troubles around us,** *God of peace,...*

Root us in patience, embed your love within us, *God of peace...*

Plant us in the soil of sorrow, and re-create us in empathy, *God of peace...*

Forgive us, pardon us, free us from bigotry and blindness, *God of peace...*

**Support us, sustain us, protect us,
as we find words to begin dialogue,** *God of peace...*

Restore us in charity, refresh us with hope, *God of peace...*

Enfold us with unity, enrich us in love, *God of peace...*

Embrace us with courage, temper us with gentleness, *God of peace...*

Help us see You in those around us, *God of peace...*

Help us build communities of unity and justice, *God of peace...*

**So that someday we may rejoice in your welcome, and enter your Kingdom
singing your praise, for ever and ever. **R. Amen.****

Litany of Forgiveness¹

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said:
Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Yet we are preoccupied with money and worldly goods
and put our trust in what we possess
rather than in your care for us.**

**R. Have mercy on us,
O Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said:
Blessed are the gentle,
for they shall inherit the earth.
Yet we are so concerned about our own rights and self-interest
and so little concerned about serving others.**

**R. Have mercy on us,
O Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said:
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.
Yet we are impatient under our burdens
and unconcerned about the burdens of others.**

**R. Have mercy on us,
O Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said:
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall have their fill.
Yet we do not thirst for you,
the fountain of all holiness,
and we are satisfied with half-measures and mediocrity.**

¹ With due gratitude to an author unknown, © Catholic Doors Ministry.

**R. Have mercy on us,
O Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said:
Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive
mercy. Yet we are so quick to condemn, so slow to forgive.**

**R. Have mercy on us,
O Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said:
Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.
Yet we have often regarded persons
created in your image as objects of our own discrimination,
and can not raise our eyes to you.**

**R. Have mercy on us,
O Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said:
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called the children of God.
Yet we are so often ruthless with each other,
and our homes and our world are full of discord and resentments.**

**R. Have mercy on us,
O Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Lord, Jesus Christ. you said:
Blessed are those who suffer persecution for holiness' sake,
for the Kingdom of God is theirs.
Yet we suffer no opposition because we have been ashamed of you,
our Crucified Savior,
and have lived worldly compromises of your Gospel.**

**R. Have mercy on us,
O Lord, have mercy on us.**