

ORDER OF EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION

A HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PEACE

EXPOSITION

Hymn

When the people are gathered, a hymn is sung as the minister approaches the altar.

Suggested hymns: Christ be our light; For the healing of the nations; The Lord hears the cry of the poor; Lord, make me a means of your peace; O salutaris hostia.

During the hymn the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and if adoration takes place with a monstrance is incensed.

Introduction

Opening Prayer

O God of peace, who are peace itself
and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp,
nor a violent mind receive,
grant that those who are one in heart
may persevere in what is good
and that those in conflict
may forget evil and so be healed.
Through Christ our Lord.

ADORATION

Scripture

From the Lectionary, Occasional Masses: In time of war or civil disturbance

First reading: Micah 4:1-4 (Lect vol III, p 615)

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 71: 1-4. 7-8. 12-13. 17 **R** cf v 9 (Lect vol III, p 616)

(Optional Second reading: James 4:1-3 (Lect, vol III, p 619 – first paragraph only))

Gospel Acclamation: John 13:34 (Lect vol III, p 622 – using Lenten acclamation)

Gospel: John 15:9-12 (Lect vol III, p 622)

Homily

Intercessions

Celebrant:

United as God's family, let us pray for peace in our world, especially in Ukraine.

Reader:

We pray for a speedy end to all war, violence and bloodshed.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for true peace with justice, based on respect for the rights of all.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for a conversion, a true change of heart, on the part of those who wage war.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for the orphans, the widows and those who have lost home and livelihood.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for the many refugees and all those who seek to help them.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for children, young people and all those traumatised by violence.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for the wounded, the injured and all those who try to care for them.
Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who work for peace, seeking an end to hostilities and lasting reconciliation between warring factions.
Lord, hear us.

For all who have died, that their sacrifice may not be in vain, and that God will grant them eternal rest.
Lord, hear us.

Celebrant:

O God,
from whom all holy desires,
all good counsels,
and all just works do proceed:
give to your servants that peace which the world cannot give,
that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments,
and also that by you, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies,

may pass our time in rest and quietness.
Through Christ our Lord.

Period of Silent Reflection

During this period the following reflection is read.

A reflection on Peace by Pope Francis

Peace is not simply the absence of war, but a general condition in which the human person is in harmony with themselves, in harmony with nature and in harmony with others. This is peace. Nevertheless, silencing weapons and extinguishing the hotbeds of war is an inevitable condition to begin a journey that leads to peace in its various aspects. We must convince ourselves, despite every appearance to the contrary, that harmony is always possible, on every level and in every situation. There is no future without proposals and plans for peace! There is no future without peace!

In the Old Testament, God made a promise. The Prophet Isaiah said: “they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (cf. Is 2:4). This is beautiful! Peace is proclaimed, as a special gift of God, in the birth of the Redeemer: “on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased” (cf. Lk 2:14). This gift needs to be ceaselessly implored in prayer. Let us recall that “prayer is at the root of peace”. This gift must be implored and must be welcomed with commitment every day, in whatever situation we are in. We are all called to rekindle in our heart an impulse of hope, which must be translated into concrete works of peace. “Do you not get on with a certain person? Make peace!”; “At home? Make peace!” “In your community? Make peace!”; “At your place of work? Make peace!”. Work for peace, for reconciliation and fraternity. Each of us must perform gestures of fraternity towards our neighbour, especially towards those who are tried by family tensions or various types of conflict. These small gestures are of so much value: they can be seeds which give hope, they can open paths and perspectives of peace.

Let us invoke Mary, Queen of Peace. During her life on earth, she met many difficulties, related to the daily toils of life. But she never lost peace of heart, the fruit of faithful abandonment to God’s mercy. Let us ask Mary, our gentle Mother, to show the entire world the sure way of love and peace.

Pope Francis, Angelus, 4 January 2015

After another period of silence the Litany for Peace is recited.

Litany for Peace

God the Father of Heaven.

Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world.

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God.

Have mercy on us.

In these days of trouble and fear.

Have mercy on us.

In the face of violence and war.

Have mercy on us.

In our grieving for those who have died.

Have mercy on us.

In our compassion for those who are bereaved.

Have mercy on us.

For those who carry out acts of violence.

Lord, deliver us, we pray.

From the fear that grows into hatred.

Lord, deliver us, we pray.

From the urge to seek revenge.

Lord, deliver us, we pray.

From a culture of death, not life.

Lord, deliver us, we pray.

For the leaders of all the nations.

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For the people of Ukraine.

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For all who seek justice and follow God's law.

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For those who have fled their homes.

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For all those who continue to live in fear.

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For, medics, aid agencies and their workers.

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For solidarity with the suffering.

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For the grace to share our resources.

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For peace amongst all God's children.

Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Let us pray.

O God, who have revealed
that peacemakers are to be called your children,
grant, we pray,
that we may work without ceasing to establish that justice
which alone ensures true and lasting peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

Additional prayers and readings for optional use during the period of reflection are included in the Appendix.

BENEDICTION

Towards the end of adoration, the Priest or Deacon approaches the altar, genuflects and kneels, and a Eucharistic hymn is sung.

Suggested hymns: O bread of heaven; Sweet Sacrament Divine; Godhead here in hiding; O Godhead hid; Seed, scattered and sown; One bread, one body Jesus, my Lord, my God, my all; Tantum ergo sacramentum.

Meanwhile the minister, while kneeling, incenses the Most Blessed Sacrament.

After this the minister rises and says:

Let us pray.

A brief pause for silence follows. Then the minister continues:

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
have left us a memorial of your Passion,
grant us, we pray,
so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood
that we may always experience in ourselves
the fruits of your redemption.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All reply:

Amen.

Once the prayer has been said, the Priest or Deacon puts on a humeral veil, genuflects, and then takes the monstrance or ciborium and, with it, makes the Sign of the Cross over the people, without saying anything.

After this, the minister kneels and recites the Divine Praises with the people:

Blessed be God.
Blessed be his holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
Blessed be the name of Jesus.
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be his most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

Reposition

After the blessing, the Priest or Deacon who gave the blessing, or another Priest or Deacon, places the Sacrament back in the tabernacle and genuflects, while the people sing the acclamation:

O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine,
all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.

Hymn

A hymn may be sung as the minister leaves.

Suggested hymns: Make me a channel of your peace; O comfort my people; How lovely on the mountains; Hail Redeemer, King divine; Tell out my soul; Hail Queen of heaven.

APPENDIX

Other prayers for optional use during the period of reflection

Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Prayer for Peace by Pope Saint John Paul II (1978-2005)

O God,
Creator of the universe,
who extends your paternal concern over every creature
and guides the events of history to the goal of your salvation,
we acknowledge your fatherly love when you break the resistance of mankind
and, in a world torn by strife and discord, you make us ready for reconciliation.
Renew for us the wonders of your mercy:
send forth your Spirit that he may work in the intimacy of hearts,
that enemies may begin to dialogue,
that adversaries may shake hands
and people may encounter one another in harmony.
May all commit to the sincere search for true peace
which will extinguish all arguments
for charity which overcomes hatred,
for pardon which disarms revenge.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer for Peace by Pope Francis

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the words which always brings us together will be "brother" and "sister", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

Acknowledgments

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