

Prayer Service

Our Faith Calls us to Peace

Scripture Reading: Micah 4:1-4

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and the Lord will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And the Lord shall judge among many people and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But every person shall sit under their vine and under their fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken it.

Reflections

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace. Make all men and woman witnesses of truth, justice and love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

Pope John XXIII

It is a duty for believers, regardless of the religion to which they belong, to proclaim that we will never be able to be happy if we are against one another; the future of humanity will never be able to be assured by terrorism and the logic of war. We Christians, in particular, are called to be like guardians of peace in the places where we live and work. We are asked, that is, to be alert, so that consciences will not yield to the temptation to egoism, falsehood and violence.

Pope John Paul II

For the church, the many abuses of human life, liberty and dignity are a heartfelt suffering. The church, entrusted with the earth's glory, believes that in each person is the Creator's image and that everyone who tramples it offends God. As the holy defender of God's rights and of God's images, the church must cry out. It takes as spittle in its face, as lashes on its back, as the cross in its passion, all that human beings suffer . . . They suffer as God's images. There is no dichotomy between humans and God's images. Whoever tortures a human being, whoever abuse a human being, whoever outrages a human being abuses God's image, and the church takes as its own that cross, that martyrdom.

Archbishop Oscar Romero

Closing Prayer

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O God, you are the source
of life and peace.

Praised be your name forever.

We know it is you who turn
our minds to thoughts of peace.

Hear our prayer in this time of war.

Your power changes hearts.

Muslims, Christians, Jews remember,
and profoundly affirm,

that they are followers of the one God,
children of Abraham, brothers and sisters;
enemies begin to speak to one another;

those who were estranged

join hands in friendship;

nations seek the way of peace together.

Strengthen our resolve to give witness
to these truths by the way we live.

Give to us:

Understanding that puts an end to strife;

Mercy that quenches hatred, and

Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live in your law of love. Amen.