



*Let there be peace on Earth
and let it begin with me.*

*International Peace Day
21 September 2008*

Prayer for Peace

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (2:2-5)

In future days yet to be revealed,
the house of God
shall be raised up on the highest mountain
for all the nations of the earth to see.
All peoples and races shall run to God's mountain.
They shall stream toward it and say:
"Let us hasten to climb God's mountain.
Let us go up to the God of Rachel and Jacob,
so that we may hear the word of life
and walk in the ways of peace."
... All human hands shall beat swords into ploughshares
and spears into pruning hooks.
One nation shall not raise a weapon against another.
Never again shall the world train for war.
O house of God's faithful, come!
Walk and live in the light of God's peace!



Let Us Pray

Let us pray for the whole human family. . .



Holy God, maker of heaven and earth,
you created all people in your image.
Look with compassion on the whole human family;
take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts;
break down the walls that separate us;
unite us in bonds of love;
and work through our struggle and confusion
to accomplish your purposes on earth;
that, in your good time,
all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne.
God of mercy, grant us your salvation.

Let us pray for the nations of the world. . .

Loving God, in Jesus Christ you have ordered us
to live as loving neighbors.
Though we are scattered in different places,
speak different languages,
or come from different ethnic backgrounds,
give us common concern,
so that we may be one people,
who share the governing of the world under your guiding purpose.
May greed, war, and lust for power be curbed,
and all people enter the community of love promised in Jesus Christ.
God of mercy, grant us your salvation.



Let us pray for the leaders of the nations. . .

Sovereign God,
you rule the ways of peoples,
and reign over every earthly government.
Work with those who work for peace.
Make every person in authority an agent of your reconciliation,
and every diplomat an ambassador of hope.
Give the leaders of the world [or name specific countries/authorities involved in conflict]
the wisdom and strength to know your will and to do it.
Bring peace and goodwill among all people,
fulfilling among us the promise made in Jesus Christ,
who was born to save the whole world.
God of mercy, grant us your salvation.

Let us pray for our country...

Almighty God, ruler of all the peoples of the earth,
forgive, we pray, our shortcomings as a nation;
purify our hearts to see and love truth;
give wisdom to our counselors
and steadfastness to our people;
and bring us at last to the fair city of peace,
whose foundations are mercy, justice, and goodwill,
and whose builder and marker you are.
God of mercy, grant us your salvation.



Let us pray for those who engage in war. . .

Righteous God,
Guard brave women and men, especially name/s,
who risk themselves in battle for their country.
Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace;
strengthen them in their trials and temptations;
give them courage to face the perils which beset them;
and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be.
Give them compassion for their enemies.
Keep them from hate that hardens, or from score keeping with human lives.
When they must be at war, let them live for peace, as eager for agreement as for victory.
Encourage them as they encourage one another,
and never let hard duty separate them from loyalty to Jesus Christ.
Comfort loved ones who await their return.
Give them patience, wisdom, and hope in these uncertain times,
and increase their faith and assurance in your love.
God of mercy, grant us your salvation.

Let us pray for our enemies. . .



Persistently forgiving God,
your Son commanded us to love our enemies and to pray for them.
We thank you that, through Jesus' violent death on the cross,
even enemies have been reconciled to you.
Give to all who seek to harm another,
your spirit of wisdom and reconciliation,
that peace and justice may prevail over violence, terrorism and warfare.
We pray for our enemies [or name specific enemies] and for ourselves:
lead us from prejudice to truth; deliver us from hatred, cruelty,
and revenge;
and enable us to stand before you, reconciled through Jesus Christ.
God of mercy, grant us your salvation.

Let us pray for the victims of war. . .

God of compassion and grace,
you remember all who suffer.
Even as we engage in combat,
may we also engage with even more intensity in acts of compassion:
to comfort those in shock, bind up the wounded,
feed the hungry, give shelter to the homeless,
bury the dead, and console those who mourn.
God of mercy, grant us your salvation.

Let us pray for peace. . .

Eternal God,
in your perfect realm no sword is drawn
but the sword of righteousness,
and there is no strength but the strength of love.
So mightily spread abroad your Spirit,
that all peoples may be gathered as your children
under the banner of the Prince of Peace.
God of mercy, grant us your salvation.



Here other intercessions may be offered.

Finally, let us pray that we may be instruments of your peace. . .

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
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.
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.
God of mercy,
grant us your salvation.



Open our hearts to your power moving
around us and between us and within us,
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy,
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,
and in the healing of all that is broken.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.
Amen

May the God of Peace disarm our hearts so that we might disarm our world.
May God make us instruments of peace and lead us on the road to peace.
We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

We come to you O god with empty hands and contrite hearts. Have mercy
on us. Bestow on us your peace, so that like rain on our parched land your
peace may enter deep into our hearts. May your peace guide us. Amen.