

## A PRAYER VIGIL FOR GOD'S PEACE

*This is a service of prayer, readings and psalms, with silence appointed for the prayers of your own heart and the contemplation of Christ with the world.*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. Christ's mercy endures forever.

*Silence.*

Most merciful God,  
I confess that I have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what I have done,  
and by what I have left undone.  
I have not loved you with my whole heart;  
I have not loved my neighbors as myself.  
I am truly sorry and I humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on me and forgive me;  
that I may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen me in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep me in eternal life. Amen.

**A reading from The Revelation of Divine Love by Dame Julian of Norwich:**

Thus saw I that God is our true peace, and God is our sure keeper when we are ourselves in unpeace, and God continually works to bring us into endless peace. Full preciously our Lord keeps us when it seems to us that we are nearly forsaken and cast away for our sin. And because of meekness that we get hereby, we are raised very high in God's sight by God's grace, with so great contrition, and also compassion, and true longing to God. Then we are suddenly delivered from sin and from pain, and taken up to bliss, and made even high saints.

By contrition we are made clean, by compassion we are made ready, and by true longing toward God we are made worthy. These are three means, as I understand by which all souls come to heaven: that is to say, that have been sinners in earth and shall be saved: for by these three medicines it is possible that every soul be healed.

But our courteous Lord does not will that his servants despair, for often nor for grievous falling: for our falling does not hinder him from loving us. Peace and love are always in us, being and working; but we are not always in peace and in love. But God wills that we take heed thus that God is Ground of all our whole life in love; and furthermore that God is our everlasting keeper and mightily defends us against our enemies.

*A period of silence.*

### **Psalm 20:**

- <sup>1</sup> May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble, \*  
the Name of the God of Jacob defend you;
- <sup>2</sup> Send you help from his holy place \*  
and strengthen you out of Zion;
- <sup>3</sup> Remember all your offerings \*  
and accept your burnt sacrifice;
- <sup>4</sup> Grant you your heart's desire \*  
and prosper all your plans.
- <sup>5</sup> We will shout for joy at your victory  
and triumph in the Name of our God; \*  
may the LORD grant all your requests.
- <sup>6</sup> Now I know that the LORD gives victory to his anointed; \*  
he will answer him out of his holy heaven,  
with the victorious strength of his right hand.
- <sup>7</sup> Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, \*  
but we will call upon the Name of the LORD our God.
- <sup>8</sup> They collapse and fall down, \*  
but we will arise and stand upright.
- <sup>9</sup> O LORD, give victory to the king \*  
and answer us when we call.

*A prolonged period of silent prayer.*

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, and that in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength; now lift us, we pray, by the power of your Holy Spirit to your presence, where we may be still, and know that you are God. **Amen.**

**A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians:**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

*A period of silence.*

**Psalm 85:**

- <sup>1</sup> You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- <sup>2</sup> You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.
- <sup>3</sup> You have withdrawn all your fury \*  
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.
- <sup>4</sup> Restore us then, O God our Savior; \*  
let your anger depart from us.
- <sup>5</sup> Will you be displeased with us for ever? \*  
will you prolong your anger from age to age?

- <sup>6</sup> Will you not give us life again, \*  
that your people may rejoice in you?
- <sup>7</sup> Show us your mercy, O LORD, \*  
and grant us your salvation.
- <sup>8</sup> I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- <sup>9</sup> Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- <sup>10</sup> Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- <sup>11</sup> Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- <sup>12</sup> The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup> Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

*A prolonged period of silent prayer.*

Almighty and merciful God, in your goodness keep us, we pray, from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready both in mind and body, may accomplish with free hearts those things which belong to your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**A reading from the Gospel according to John:**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He

has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but will tell you plainly of the Father. On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.”

The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!”

*A period of silence.*

## **Psalm 46**

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- <sup>6</sup> The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- <sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the LORD;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- <sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> “Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth.”

<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*A prolonged period of silent prayer.*

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

Almighty God, let our prayer in your sight this night be as incense, the lifting of our hands as our evening sacrifice. Give us grace to behold you, present in your Word and Sacraments, and to recognize you in the lives of those around us. Stir up in us the flame of love which burned in the heart of your Son as he bore his passion, and let it burn in us to eternal life and to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord; thanks be to God.

The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.  
Amen.