



## A PRAYER VIGIL FOR THOSE LOST TO GUN VIOLENCE

Officiant: The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.

*A period of silence.*

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that those who died in Topps Grocery in Buffalo, New York; Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, California; and Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas; and all who have died in mass shootings, being raised with Christ, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory.

We remember before you this day:

- Maite Yuleana Rodriguez
- Tess Mata
- Annabelle Guadalupe Rodriguez
- Alithia Ramirez
- Jayce Carmelo Luevanos
- Jailah Nicole Silguero
- Miranda Mathis,
- Elijah Cruz Torres
- Jose Flores
- Alexandra Aniyah Rubio
- Ellie Garcia
- Makenna Elrod
- Maite Yuleana Rodriguez,
- Nevaeh Bravo

- Rojelio Torres
- Amerie Jo Garza
- Uziyah Garcia
- Irma Garcia
- Eva Mireles
- Xavier Lopez
- Roberta A. Drury
- Margus D. Morrison
- Andre Mackneil
- Aaron Salter
- Geraldine Talley
- Celestine Chaney
- Heyward Patterson
- Katherine Massey
- Pearl Young
- Ruth Whitfield
- John Cheng

As difficult as it may be to pray for those who have been moved to unspeakable violence, we hold Payton Gendron, David Chou, and Salvador Ramos up to your purifying presence and redemptive grace.

God we pray you deal graciously with those who mourn. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### A Reading from “Grieving our Lost Children” by Walter Brueggemann

Another brutality,  
 another school killing,  
 another grief beyond telling . . .  
 and loss . . .

We are reduced to weeping silence,  
 even as we breed a violent culture,  
 even as we kill the sons and daughters of our "enemies,"  
 even as we fail to live and cherish and respect  
 the forgotten of our common life.

There is no joy among us as we empty our schoolhouses;

there is no health among us as we move in fear and bottomless anxiety;  
 there is little hope among us as we fall helpless before  
 the gunshot and the shriek and the blood and the panic:  
 we pray to you only because we do not know what else to do.  
 So, we pray, move powerfully in our body politic,  
 move us toward peaceableness  
 that does not want to hurt or to kill,  
 move us toward justice  
 that the troubled and the forgotten may know mercy,  
 move us toward forgiveness that we  
 may escape the trap of revenge.

Empower us to turn our weapons to acts of mercy,  
 to turn our missiles to gestures of friendship,  
 to turn our bombs to policies of reconciliation;  
 and while we are turning,  
 hear our sadness,  
 our loss,  
 our bitterness.  
 We dare to pray our needfulness to you  
 because you have been there on that  
 gray Friday, and watched your own Son be murdered  
 for "reasons of state."

Good God, do Easter!  
 Here and among these families,  
 here and in all our places of brutality.

Move our Easter grief now . . .  
 without too much innocence -  
 to your Sunday joy.  
 We pray in the one crucified and risen  
 who is our Lord and Savior.

*A period of silence.*

**A Reading from the Book of Micah (6:6-8)**

‘With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burntofferings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

*A period of silence.*

**Psalm 23**

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- <sup>3</sup> He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup> Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- <sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me in the presence of those  
who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.
- <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days  
of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

*A period of silence*

**A Reading from the Gospel according to John (15:12-17):**

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*Period of silence*

**A Litany**

O Lord, arise, help us;

**And deliver us for your Name's sake.**

O God, we have heard with our ears, and our mothers and fathers have declared unto us, the noble works that you did in their days, and in the old time before them.

**O Lord, arise, help us;**

**and deliver us for your Name's sake.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

**O Lord, arise, help us;**

**and deliver us for your Name's sake.**

Comfort and heal all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, from injury or despair, from grievous loss; give them hope and courage in this time; and bring them to the joy of your love and salvation.

**O Lord, arise, help us;**

**and deliver us for your Name's sake.**

God, your glory is in all the world: we commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being guided by your providence we may dwell secure in your peace.

**O Lord, arise, help us;**

**and deliver us for your Name's sake.**

Guide the rulers of our nation, and especially we pray for our president, Joseph, and his advisors, and for all the citizens of this country, that our hearts will be governed by your truth and wisdom, your mercy and judgment.

**O Lord, arise, help us;**

**and deliver us for your Name's sake.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

O Lord, arise, help us;  
and deliver us for your Name's sake.

That the world may one day be free of violence, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may no longer desire revenge, but only your justice which is mercy and grace, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That each of us will be empowered and equipped to work for a just and peaceful society, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all people might be united to seek the cause of your Kingdom, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We ask your forgiveness for the ways in which we are complicit in the problem of violence in the world.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We ask your forgiveness for any harm we have done to one another.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We ask your forgiveness for any prejudice, bitterness or hate we harbor in our hearts or in our lives.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We ask your forgiveness for the times we have repaid evil for evil.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

We ask your forgiveness for the times we have been slow to forgive, and slow to act.

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, hear us.

**O Christ, hear us.**

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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son:  
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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.



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