
PRAYER FOR PEACE

Sign of the Cross

Opening Prayer

O Lord, our God,
grant us your peace; already, indeed, you have made us rich in all things!
Give us that peace of being at rest,
that sabbath peace,
the peace which knows no end.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

Matthew 5:38-48

'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Silence/Reflection

Petitions

For the Pope, the bishops and all the clergy: that they may continue to guide us in living our faith, we pray to the Lord.

For government leaders: that they may work to find fair and just solutions to the world's problems, we pray to the Lord.

For those in danger due to war, famine, or poverty: that they may be kept safe and have their needs met today, we pray to the Lord.

For the men and women in our armed services: that they may return home in safety to be reunited with their loved ones, we pray to the Lord.

For our parishes and schools: that we may help one another grow in knowledge and faith, we pray to the Lord.

For our family and friends who are in need of God's healing grace: that they may be comforted by our love and care, we pray to the Lord.

For those who have died: that they may enjoy the heavenly banquet with all the saints, we pray to the Lord.

Our Father

Closing Prayer

Jesus, Prince of Peace,
you have asked us to love our enemies
and pray for those who persecute us.
We pray for our enemies and those who oppose us.
With the help of the Holy Spirit,
may all people learn to work together
for that justice which brings true and lasting peace.
To you be glory and honor for ever and ever. Amen.

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Opening prayer adapted from St. Augustine.

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