

**May We Be PEACEFUL People
Let peace begin with me!**



We pause and remember that no matter where we find ourselves and no matter in what conditions, we are always a hope-filled people striving for peace and justice and knowing that we are continually in the presence of the Holy One.

Glory to God, our Creator.

Praise to Jesus the Christ, our Brother and Savior.

Honor to the Paraclete most holy, our Animator.

WORLD PEACE BEFORE TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE



Refrain:

Let the sun shine down....Down on you.

Right through the pouring rain.

We know it can be done.

World peace before two thousand twenty-one.

Earth's religious and racial tensions escalate each day.

Violence and terrorism...Everyone is prey.

Democracy gone mad versus no human rights at all.

We must all work for peace or the human race will fall.

Diseases growing stronger while morality just won't keep.

Oppression in the cities while the rich enjoy their greed.

A drive by shooting takes a life. See the child bleed.

People, put your hands together. The message now must be sent.

The cries of war, cries of pain, starvation and corruption

All must come to an end.

Refrain

**Political attention feeds on symptoms not the cure
While citizens go homeless and the workers become the poor.
Countries in disagreement while the innocent shed their lives.
These natural disasters should be opening our eyes!
People put your hands together this message now must be sent.
The cries of war, cries of pain, starvation and corruption
All must come to an end.**

Refrain

**Now take a look around at what's right from what wrong.
We've got to keep believing and we've got to be strong.
We've got to get together. It does not matter who is to blame.
Just hold on to the faith and cry out what you believe.
We know it can be done.**

Lyrics by Jill Kollist and Ross Baratta

PRAYER

**Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS, for they shall be known as
the Children of God.**

**But I say to you that hear, love your enemies, do good to those who
hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.
To those who strike you on the cheek, offer the other also,
and from those who take away your cloak, do not withhold your coat
as well. Give to everyone who begs from you. And as you wish that
others would do to you, so do to them. Lord, may this be our prayer,
may this be our hope. Amen.**

PRAYER BEFORE THE SCRIPTURE READING:

**Open your ears, O Christian people,
open your ears and hear the Good News.
Open your hearts, O Christian people,
open your hearts and receive the Good News.**

SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 4: 29 – 32

***Never let evil talk pass your lips; say only the good things
people need to hear, things that will really help them. Do
nothing that will sadden the Holy Spirit with Whom you were
sealed. Get rid of all bitterness, all passion and anger, harsh
words, slander, and malice of every kind. In place of these,
be kind to one another, compassionate and mutually
forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ.***

REFLECTION: RICHARD C. LENORD

We live today in a violent world. Since the end of World War II, there has hardly been a year when there wasn't a war going on somewhere on this globe. Our own nation has seen its share of violence, since the attack of September 2001 and the subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The struggle between Israelis and Palestinians continues to take its toll, not to mention the conflict in the Sudan, which has driven millions of people from their homes. Somalia, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Kosovo, Viet Nam — these are only a few from a catalog of nations whose names seem almost synonymous with conflict, violence and destruction. Tribal groups, nations, religions, political ideologies vie with one another for control and domination, and violence — horrible violence — is the usual result. It has been calculated that more Christians died for their faith in the twentieth century than in all previous centuries put together.

We're no strangers to violence within our own borders. One never knows where it will flare up next. The news reports each morning chronicle the latest overnight murders. Family violence seems to head the list, as angry fathers murder their wives and children — or angry children murder their parents. There's no peace today in millions of American homes, as wills and values clash and personalities brush up against one another. There's no peace even for the unborn, no longer secure in their mother's womb but liable to be ripped from that comforting shelter with the sanction of a culture that mandates personal choice at all costs. In this world, peace is at a premium.

Peace isn't a "thing" that can materialize all at once, out of nothing, just because people get tired of strife and violence. Peace — whether international peace or simply good and open relationships in the home, or with people we deal with daily — this peace is a process that takes place over time, as we learn to lay aside our self-centeredness and obey the Word of the Lord. And that Word has to go forth from God's "holy mountain," the "new Jerusalem" that is the body of Christ — a worshiping church, a teaching church, a sharing church, a caring church. Jesus gave us, His church, the assignment to spread that way of peace. He made us responsible for helping people live in a loving and obedient relationship with God.

Peace comes to us when the Prince of Peace comes to us. Of Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul said, "He is our peace." But the Prince of Peace is here now. For He said to us, "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:19). There is peace in our midst, for Jesus is here — here in the

proclamation of His word; here in our sharing of his gifts; here in the loving touch of those who know Him as Savior and Lord. He Who is our peace is in our midst. Therefore, as we gather together in prayer, we greet one another with those ancient words, so full of both solemnity and hope: “The peace of the Lord be with you.”

HYMN: LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**



Prayers of Intercession

Response: GOD of PEACE and JUSTICE HEAR OUR PRAYER!

That each of us will take on the mind and heart of Jesus, we pray:

That we will put the needs of others before our own, we pray:

That we, as individuals and nations, will become more humble and less self-righteous and important, we pray:

That as individuals and as leaders of towns and cities, states and nations will incorporate conflict resolution into our lives, we pray:

That we will treasure peace and peaceful thoughts rather than war, we pray:

That we may be people who bless and praise others rather than curse and condemn them, we pray:

That governments will develop agencies of peace rather than departments of war and defense, we pray:

That the peace of Christ will reign in our hearts, we pray:

Let us pray:

Lord, it was Your very Self that wished the apostles peace when You appeared to them. Give us that same peace now as we beg for an end to conflict and wars between peoples. Hear our humble prayers and answer them as only You know best for us. Amen.

DISMISSAL

**In the name of God,
the beneficent, the merciful.**

**Praise be to the Lord of the Universe Who has created us
and made us into tribes and nations,**

That we may know each other, not that we may despise each other.

**If the enemy incline towards peace, you also incline towards peace,
and trust God, for the Lord is the One that hears and knows all things.**

**And may we, the servants of God, walk on the Earth in humility,
and when we meet one another, we wish each other God's blessings
and say "PEACE."**



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle,
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to educate others in peace and justice.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

**CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD,
AND LET YOUR HOLY SPIRIT DWELL WITHIN ME.**