

## Prayers for Peace During a Time of War

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

This is a vision that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days, the mountain of the LORD's house  
will be the highest of all—  
the most important place on earth.

It will be raised above the other hills,  
and people from all over the world will stream there to worship.

People from many nations will come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of Jacob's God.

There he will teach us his ways,  
and we will walk in his paths.”

For the LORD's teaching will go out from Zion;  
his word will go out from Jerusalem.

The LORD will mediate between nations  
and will settle international disputes.

They will hammer their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will no longer fight against nation,  
nor train for war anymore.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

*A period of Silence is observed*

A Collect for Peace

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

O 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 Savior. *Amen.*

*A reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God.*

*Bidding*

As the swords of war shatter the land and destroy the lives of God’s children in \_\_\_\_\_, let us heed the call of our Lord and Savior Jesus to seek peace and to further the vision of Isaiah with our prayers, that peace may begin in our own hearts and our love for the suffering ones of \_\_\_\_\_ be released to reach out to God, imploring God’s mercy for that troubled place.

I bid your prayers for peace.

God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

*Have mercy upon us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

*Have mercy upon us.*

God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,

*Have mercy upon us.*

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

*Have mercy upon us.*

That it may please you to make wars to cease in all the world, especially in \_\_\_\_\_ and throughout \_\_\_\_\_; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord;

*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please you so to rule the hearts of your servants, the President of the

United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy,  
and walk in the ways of truth,  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please you to strengthen all who suffer from the scourge of war; and to  
comfort with your presence those who grieve,  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and  
malice; and from all want of charity,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.*

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in  
the day of judgment,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.*

Spare us, good Lord, spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your most  
precious blood, and by your mercy preserve us for ever.  
*Spare us, good Lord.*

That it may please you to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive your  
Word, and to bring forth the fruits of your Spirit, particularly the fruit of peace.  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please you to bring into the way of truth all who have erred, and are  
deceived,  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please you to give us a heart to love and fear you, and diligently to live  
after your commandments,  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That It may please you to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work you give us  
to do with singleness of heart as your servants, and for the common good, seeking  
peace and justice in the world,  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please you to bless and keep all your people,  
*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please you to have mercy upon all mankind,

*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please you to forgive enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn all our hearts to the way of peace,

*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please you to grant that, in the fellowship of all the saints, we may attain to your heavenly kingdom,

*We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.*

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

*Have mercy upon us.*

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

*Have mercy upon us.*

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

*Grant us your peace.*

O Christ, hear us.

*O Christ, hear us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your 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. Amen.

*Officiant* Lord, show your mercy on us and all the world;

*Response* As we put our trust in you.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of

righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love; So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

*A Prayer attributed to St. Francis (together)*

Lord, make us 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 the giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *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.*