

# A Prayer Service for Peace and Reconciliation



## Call to Worship/Opening Rite

*Leader 1* We can not be silent.

*Leader 2* We must not be silent.

*Leader 3* We will not be silent.

*Leader 1* We continue to build weapons of mass destruction.

*Leader 2* The poor are being trampled on.

*Leader 3* Violence abounds.

*Leader 1* We can call upon world leaders.

*Leader 2* We must call upon world leaders.

*Leader 3* We will call upon world leaders.

**ALL** To establish peace with justice in our world.

*Leader 1* Glory to God who makes salvation known.

*Leader 2* Glory to God who reveals justice.

*Leader 3* Glory to God who lives among us!

## Opening Song

### Penitential Rite

*Leader 1* Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

**ALL** Jesus, have mercy.

*Leader 1* Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

**ALL** Christ, have mercy.

*Leader 1* Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

**ALL** Jesus, have mercy.

*Leader 1* May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

**ALL** Amen.



### Water Rite

*Leader 2*

May God, who through water and the Spirit has given us a new birth in Christ, be with you all.

**ALL** And also with you.

*Leader 2*

As we gather,  
we are mindful

of a world that thirsts for peace and an end to violence, for equality and for love. May this water which we now bless remind us of Christ, the living water, and of the sacrament of baptism, in which we were born of water and the Spirit. As we are touched with this water, may we believe ever more deeply in its power to heal, to give life, to forgive, and to sustain hope.

*(Reader 2 sprinkles the congregation with water.)*

## First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

**Responsorial:** Psalm 99:1-4

“God’s saving power has been revealed to the nations”

*Reader*

Sing a new song to the God of Life who has worked marvels, whose hand and holy arm have brought salvation.

**ALL** God’s saving power has been revealed to the nations.

*Reader*

God has made salvation known, revealed justice to the nations. God has remembered a merciful love for the house of Israel.

**ALL** God’s saving power has been revealed to the nations.

*Reader*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God. Shout to God, you earth; burst into music, sing praise.

**ALL** God’s saving power has been revealed to the nations.

## Second Reading

John 15:9-17



### General Intercessions

*Leader 1* In faith and with persistence we ask God to listen as we say: “God, hear our prayer and move us to action.”

**ALL** God, hear our prayer and move us to action.

*Reader*

Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to encourage world leaders to replace politics of war with the politics of peace. We pray:

**ALL** God, hear our prayer and move us to action.

*Reader*

Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to assist in conserving God’s earth and nurturing its people. We pray:

**ALL** God, hear our prayer and move us to action.

*Reader*

Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to work toward alleviating patterns of unbridled consumption that lead to unendurable poverty. We pray:

**ALL** God, hear our prayer and move us to action.

*Reader*

Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to urge each other to work tirelessly to promote gospel values. We pray:

**ALL** God, hear our prayer and move us to action.

*Reader*

Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to show a love that can create a more just and peaceful world. We pray:

**ALL** God, hear our prayer and move us to action.

*Reader*

And for what else should we pray?

*(Reader waits for responses from those gathered.)*

**ALL**

Loving God, lead us from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth,  
from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust,  
from hate to love, from war to peace,  
now and ever more. Amen.

### Sign of Peace

*Leader 2*

That which we seek to see in the world, we must first see in ourselves. Knowing this, Jesus told us, “My peace I give you.” And so let us begin the work of peace by acknowledging the peace that is ours in Christ, and the peace that we as a community are called to witness to between each other and with the world.

Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

### Concluding Rite

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### Closing Song

### Acknowledgments

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