

Prayer Vigil for Peace in Ukraine
February 26, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. ET
Independent Catholic Christian Church

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray.

Opening Collect (*from European Council of Churches*)

Lord God,
We ask you to hold the people of Ukraine deep in your heart.
Protect them, we pray;
From violence,
From political gamesmanship,
from being used and abused.
Give, we pray,
the nations of the world the courage
and the wisdom
to stand up for justice
and the courage too,
to dare to care – generously.
Lord in your mercy,
Take from us all,
The tendencies in us
That seek to lord it over others:
Take from us those traits
that see us pursuing our own needs and wants
before those of others.
Teach us how to live in love
And dignity
And respect – following your example.
In your name and for your sake,
Amen.

Psalm 46

- ¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present^[a] help in trouble.
²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; ^[b] it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- ⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."
- ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

A Litany for Peace in Troubled Times**

God the Father,
have mercy on us.
God the Son,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.
Holy and blessed Trinity, one God,
have mercy on us.

In these days of trouble, fear and sorrow,
have mercy on us.
In our despair at the violence that seems to fill the world,
have mercy on us.
In the pain of lost life and shattered hopes,
have mercy on us.
In our grieving for those who have died,
have mercy on us.
In our compassion for all who are bereaved,
have mercy on us.

From the history of violence
that corrupts every society and our own,
O Lord, deliver us.
From the greed and injustice
that divide the world into rich and poor,
O Lord, deliver us.
From the urge for revenge
that adds to the cycle of violence,
O Lord, deliver us.
From the fear that grows into hatred
for people who are different,
O Lord, deliver us.
From being too quick to attribute blame
and demand retribution,
O Lord, deliver us.
From believing ourselves safe
through anything other than your grace,
O Lord, deliver us.
From dying suddenly and unprepared,
O Lord, deliver us.

For those who plan and carry out acts of violence,
Lord, hear our prayer.
For all who seek justice and ensure the rule of law,
Lord, hear our prayer.
For the victims of war and terrorism everywhere on earth,
Lord, hear our prayer.
For all who live in fear, and for refugees from violent regimes,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For courage to resist demonising and dehumanising others,
Lord, hear our prayer.
For wisdom in choosing the paths of peace,
Lord, hear our prayer.
For solidarity with the suffering of the dispossessed,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For generosity in sharing fairly the world's resources,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For respect in conversation with people of other faiths, and none,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For honesty in knowing and confessing the sin in our own hearts,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For grace to change and be changed as you forgive us,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For rescue workers and medical teams
treating those injured in conflict zones,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For aid agencies and their workers,
responding with practical care in dangerous places,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of all the nations,
looking for ways to work together beyond fear and suspicion,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For people of goodwill, responding generously
to the needs of suffering communities,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have friends and family
involved in areas of conflict and disaster,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For communities that are terrified
by missiles, snipers, vigilantes or death squads,

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the vulnerable and defenseless in conflict zones,
for the children, the elderly, the disabled, the sick:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For Christ to bring all the peoples of the world
into one flock with one shepherd,

we pray to you, O God.

For Christ to bring healing and comfort for those we love
who are sick or in mourning,

we pray to you, O God.

For Christ to lead us into the paths of peace,
writing the law of love on our hearts,

we pray to you, O God.

For Christ to bring us, with all who have died in faith,
to a joyful resurrection,

we pray to you, O God.

God of all peace,
have mercy on our broken and divided world,
and on your people who cry out to you for healing,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Petitions and Intercessions

Closing Collect***

O Lord Jesus, Servant and Master, Bringer of Peace and Reconciliation, with deep sorrow and concern, we cry out to you for the beginnings of this war now occurring in Ukraine. We long for you to arrest this violence and destruction, to bring this war to a just end, and for your protection for all innocent victims and everyone directly involved in military action, in Ukraine and in Russia.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Final Blessing and Dismissal

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

Go in peace.

** *Litany is from*

http://www.stjamesstjames.org/uploads/1/0/8/9/10895573/litany_for_peace_in_troubled_times.pdf

****Closing prayer is from*

<https://www.fuller.edu/posts/a-call-to-prayer-for-ukraine/>