



**Taizé Service | Oct. 3, 2024**

# St. Francis of Assisi and Prayers for Peace

## Introduction

As we gather tonight, it is the vigil of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, with whom we associate prayers and a lifestyle promoting peace. We gather at a time when there are many parts of our world, and maybe even our own neighborhoods, are not places of peace.

**Chant: "Peace on Earth" Refrain by all; verses by cantors**

**Reading 1: "Universal Kinship — Francis' most famous insight"**

"Universal kinship" implies "integrity of creation" with a Franciscan flavor, for in kinship is how Francis believed all things should ideally be. He understood all things to be in relationship one to another as brother and sister — because all creatures have one Father and one Mother. Thus, each and every part

depends on the other, and the whole depends on God. Therefore, all creatures form one family, and human beings are an integral part of the family.

And Francis' relationship with nature did have a family-like quality to it. A cricket kept him company for eight days. The lark and the falcon announced for him the time of office. Flowers consoled him. He was thankful that the sun gave him light. He walked reverently upon stones because of the One called the Rock. Also, a pheasant would not leave Francis' side when the Saint was sick but would force its way in under the brother's habit to hide.

**Chant: "Psalm 104" Refrain by all; verses by cantors. (see next page)**

**Reading 2: Responsive Scripture Reading paraphrased from Matthew 5**

**Reader:** "When he saw the crowds, Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying: 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'"

**All:** God, we have heard the commands instructing us not to kill, and we affirm them as a community of faith, professing that it is a sin to kill or to support killing.

We confess that we have been a murderous people and that we have justified killing and war, often in your name. We stand convicted and we commit ourselves not to kill.

**Reader:** Jesus continued teaching, saying, "But I tell you that anyone who is angry with brother or sister will be subject to judgment."

**All:** God, we see that it is not only those who bear arms who murder but your words encourage us to search out the hate and violence which we carry inside of us and among our community.

We repent of the hate and fear and injustice which lead to

## PEACE ON EARTH

Antonin Dvořák, 1841–1941  
Adapted by Bob Hurd



1. In the place of fear and hate, let us build com-mun-ion.
2. From the scourge of rac - ist ways, let us purge our na - tion.
3. For those crushed by end-less need, may we lift the bur-den.
4. May we tend the earth with care, with res - pect and wis-dom.
5. If we want a last-ing peace, we must work for jus - tice.
6. God of prom - ise, God of hope, in your mer - cy lead us.

war and death. Not only will we refuse to kill, but we will examine ourselves and our conscience, seeking to turn from the destructive path of violence.

**Reader:** Jesus pressed the people further, saying: "You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But tell you, Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father and Mother in heaven. God causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and unrighteous."

**All:** God, you not only command us not to kill, but you invite us to love. We will go beyond refusal to kill and will seek to bring peace to our world by loving those who would be our enemies. Through the love of God, the fallen nature which leads to war will be redeemed and we, our Church and our community, will seek peace and pursue it.

Now we sit in silence for a few minutes.

**Petitions. Sung response is "O Lord, hear my prayer."**

**Leader:** God of compassion, all creation is sustained by your love, enlivened by your Spirit, and suffused with the light of the risen Christ. We place before him our prayers and petitions.

1. Ignite in us, your Church, a fiery impatience with the abuse of your good creation, we pray:

2. Give us courage and wisdom to heal harms and do what is right in the land, we pray:

3. Make your Church a bold advocate for those harmed by the deterioration of the environment: those whose soil is sickened, whose water is polluted, whose land is threatened by rising sea levels, we pray:

4. Lead us from greed and overconsumption to ensure that all share in the gifts of your good creation, we pray:

5. Change our hearts from self-centeredness to other-centered affection, awe, and gratitude for the beauty of all you have made, we pray:

6. Fill us with compassion and let this compassion be completed in deeds of mercy and justice, we pray:

You are invited to add other spontaneous prayers as you light a votive on the altar from the Easter Candle.

## Psalm 104: Lord, Send Out Your Spirit / Señor, Envía Tu Espíritu

Antiphon / Antirona

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord, my God, you are great indeed! How manifold are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your creatures!
2. If you take away their breath, they die and they return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit of life, they are created in your sight!
3. May his glory last for all time; may the Lord be glad in his works. Pleasing to him will be my theme; I will be glad in the Lord!

## PEACE ON EARTH

Antonin Dvořák, 1841–1941  
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## O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER

Jacques Berthier

## Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon: where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master,

Grant that I 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 giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

## Chant 5x: "Give Peace" (Da Pacem Cordium)

### Closing Prayer

May God strengthen our hearts for love of neighbor and the responsible stewardship of creation. And may the blessing of the Triune God come down upon us and remain with us forever, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



## Chant "Peace Prayer" by John Foley

Thank you for coming. Please join us again on Nov. 7. In the meantime, we invite you to check our Precious Blood Renewal Center website for other opportunities of enrichment.

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## Da Pacem Cordium / Give Peace

Canon—3 voices

Three staves of musical notation for a canon in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The lyrics are: Da pa - cem cor - di - um. Give peace to ev - 'ry heart. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in italics. The first staff is labeled (A), the second (B), and the third (C). The lyrics for each staff are: (A) Da pa - cem cor - di - um. Give peace to ev - 'ry heart. (B) pa peace, - cem. Lord. Da Give (C) pa peace, - cem. Lord.

## PEACE PRAYER

John Foley, S.J.  
Arranged by Tom Booth and Laura Huval

Three staves of musical notation for a peace prayer in 3/4 time, key of D major. The lyrics are: 1-3. Lord, make me a means of your peace. 4-6. Lord, grant me to seek and to share: 1. Where there's ha - tred grown, let me sow your love. 2. Where there's doubt and fear, let me sow your faith. 3. When there's sad - ness here, let me sow your joy. 4. less to be con - soled than to help con - sole, 5. to re - ceive love less than to give love free, 6. to for - give in thee, you've for - giv - en me; 1. Where there's in - jury, Lord, let for - give-ness be my sword. 2. In this world's de - spair, give me hope in you to share. 3. When the dark-ness nears, may your light dis - pel our fears. 4. less be un - der - stood than to un - der-stand your good. 5. just to give in thee, just re - ceiv - ing from your tree. 6. for to die in thee is e - ter - nal life to me. 7. 1-6. Lord, make me a means of your peace.