

*Be strong and of good courage;
be not frightened,
neither be dismayed;
for the Lord, your God,
is with you
wherever you go.*

--Joshua 1:9

Chant 5x

*Nothing can trouble, nothing
can frighten. Those who seek
God shall never go wanting.*

*Nothing can trouble, nothing can
frighten. God alone fills us.*

*— Songs and Prayers
from Taizé #29*

Selected readings from sacred scripture

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ, who
in his great mercy gave us a
new birth to a living hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead.

— 1 Peter 1:3

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."

— John 11:25

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we
have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ
through whom we have gained access by faith to this
grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the
glory of God.

Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions,
knowing that affliction produces endurance, and
endurance, proven character, and proven character,
hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love
of God has been poured out into our hearts through
the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

— Romans 5:1-5

They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength,
they will soar as with eagles' wings; They will run
and not grow weary, walk, and not grow faint.

— Isaiah 40:31

This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm,
which reaches into the interior behind the veil.

— Hebrews 6:19

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to
a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is
imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in
heaven for you who by the power of God are
safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready
to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice,
although now for a little while you may have to
suffer through various trials.

— 1 Peter 1:3-6

Hope and Trust

Taizé Service | April 7, 2022

Introduction and Welcome

We are about to enter Holy Week, when we celebrate both Good Friday and Easter. When we look at world events, we can personally get discouraged, like Job who cried out: "Where then is my hope, and my prosperity, who shall see? Will they descend with me into the nether world? Shall we go down together into the dust?"

We need to remind ourselves that God is there for us like Isaiah says: "A nation of firm purpose you keep in peace; in peace, for its trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever! For the Lord is an eternal rock." (Isaiah 26:3-4), and as it says in the Book of Joshua: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

The Paschal Mystery prescribes the law of life coming through death and by means of death. That we are governed as humans by the law of death is a reality we ignore as much as possible; that we are governed as Christians by the law of life coming through death and by means of death is a mystery we struggle to understand.

As we prepare to begin, I invite you in the room to stand, come forward and bless yourself with these blessed waters as a sign of your willingness to enter into the death of Christ, so that you can rise with Christ and experience God's abundant love and grace.

Chant 5x

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation: in God I trust, in God I trust.

— *Songs and Prayers from Taize #36*

A Reading from Thomas Merton

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I am following your will, does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I TRUST you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

"That's the meaning of hope...to trust in the ultimate goodness of creation. Hope doesn't mean an anticipation or expectation of a deliverance from an intolerable or oppressive situation or condition... That's what most of us are doing most of the time: wanting something other than what is—as I said true hope is trusting that what we have, where we are, and who we are is more than enough for us as creatures of God... We are saved by hope for that which we do not see, and we wait for it with patience. On the surface I have my confusion. On a deeper level, desire and conflict. In the greatest depths, like a spring of pure water rising up in the flames of hell, is the smallness, the frailty of a hope that is, yet, never overwhelmed but continues strangely and inexplicably to nourish in the midst of apparent despair. The real hope then, is not in something we think we can do, but in God who is making something good out of it in some way we cannot see. If we can do his will, we will be helping this process. But we can not necessarily know about it beforehand. Hope then is a gift."

Silence 5 minutes

Petitions

As you offer prayers of petition, please light a votive candle after each, as we all sing the refrain:

*O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.*

— *Songs and Prayers from Taize #20*

1. That the Church may never shy away from challenging worldly powers to guarantee basic human rights for all their peoples and to exhaust every diplomatic solution to avoid war, we pray: _____

2. That during times of war and strife, both aggressors and victims will work to secure the safety of innocent civilians, we pray: _____

3. That the wisdom of the Spirit might lead our faith community to find creative and challenging ways to work for the promotion of peace in our world, we pray: _____

4. That those who feel the pain and suffering of the destruction of their body on a daily basis due to disease or affliction might experience freedom from their burden, we pray: _____

You are invited others to add your own spontaneous prayers and then light a votive candle from the Easter Candle.

The Lord's Prayer *We all pray together*

Psalm 33: Chant refrain 2x

Let your mercy be on us O God, as we place our trust in you.

— *Gather #43 Choir edition*

Closing Prayer

O God, merciful and strong, be pleased to banish violence swiftly from our midst, and to wipe away all tears, so that we may all truly deserve to be called your children. Hear the prayers that we lift up to this day, watch over all who are in harm's way, and keep us always focused on your law of peace and justice. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*
— *Songs and Prayers from Taize #9*

Thank you for joining our Taizé Prayer this evening. Please join us again on the first Thursday of May, May 5, at 7 p.m. central time. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

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