

Taizé Service | July 7, 2022

# Freedom comes through sacrifice and gives us responsibility



With our recent Fourth of July celebrations, we have been celebrating our freedom. Freedom to worship, freedom to love, freedom to serve others, freedom to be generous, freedom to vote, etc. Freedom does not mean I can do as I please. Freedom comes through sacrifice and it gives responsibility for the welfare of others.

This month we remember and honor all who have dedicated their lives to winning and securing our freedom — judges, soldiers, public servants, civil rights worker and all who work for the common good. We also remember saints and martyrs of the Church that we celebrate during July. People like the Chinese martyrs celebrated on July 9 who gave the gift of their lives for others to worship freely. Kateri Tekakwitha whose mother forbid her to follow the Jesuits and be baptized, but she did anyway. Mary Magdalene who must have had great courage to be among women following Jesus along with the apostles. St. James the first apostle to be martyred.

A poem inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty written by Emma Lazarus, titled "The New Colossus," reads:

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes  
command

The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame,  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries  
she

With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

The Church is a community of believers, who offers healing in body, mind, and spirit, as Jesus did. That calls us to be a light of healing for all people in any

kind of need. Our gathering tonight is one means of this kind of prayer with one another and for one another. In this way the Church and her members are instruments of healing.

## Introduction to Service

We as Church are called to have a positive impact on our United States, bringing God's transforming love and compassion to all segments of our nation. We pray tonight for ourselves and for our nation.

When we were baptized, we became adopted daughters and sons of God, and members of the Church, the living Body of Christ. Jesus Christ healed the sick, cast out demons, and forgave sinners through his touch, words, and presence. As St. Theresa of Avila once said, Christ has no body on earth now but ours. I invite you to renew your union with him by blessing this water which recalls our baptism. Jesus was moved with compassion when people came to him for healing, may we as Church, sprinkle our world with the compassion of Jesus Christ.

## Opening Blessing

*Extend your hands toward the water and say:*

Almighty Lord and God, who are the source and origin of all life, whether of body or soul, we ask you to bless + this water, which we use in confidence to implore the forgiveness of our sins and to obtain the protection of your grace against all illness and the power of evil in our lives. Grant, O Lord, in your mercy, that living waters may always spring up for our salvation, and so may we approach you with a pure heart and avoid all danger to body and soul. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All come forward and sign themselves with the blessed water.*

## Chant 5x

Ubi Caritas et amor ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

Live in Charity and steadfast love, live in charity;  
God will dwell with you.

## Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased.

Upon him I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry out, nor shout, nor make his voice heard in the street.

A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench.

He will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow dim or be bruised until he establishes justice on the earth;

the coastlands will wait for his teaching. I, the LORD, have called you for justice,

I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,

To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

## Chant 2x, then 1x after each verse

The Lord is Kind and Merciful; the Lord is kind and merciful. Slow to anger, rich in kindness, the Lord is kind and merciful.

## Reading: Psalm 119:44-48

I will keep your law always,  
for all time and forever.

I will walk freely in an open space  
because I cherish your precepts.

I will speak openly of your testimonies without  
fear even before kings.

I delight in your commandments,  
which I dearly love.

I lift up my hands to your commandments;  
I study your statutes, which I love.

## Silence 5 minutes

### Petitions

We now join our prayers with the worldwide Taize Community at prayer.

### Chant 3x and then 1x after each petition

Lord Hear My Prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. When I call answer me.

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

• May we learn to live our freedom responsibly, we pray:

• May world leaders listen to the cries of all people in need and provide resources for research, medicine, and personnel to address all illnesses and disease, we pray:

• May healthcare providers, family and friends who are caretakers, and those who offer support to those in need of healing, give flesh to Christ's compassion every day and know our support, we pray:

• May the diseases of fear, judgment, and apathy, walls to healing, be replaced with bridges of attentiveness and care, we pray:

• May people who are often neglected or dismissed be seen and heard, since when one part of the Body suffers, all of the Body suffers, we pray:

• May we find solutions to reduce gun violence in our nation, we pray:

• Let us add our on petitions .... we pray:

## The Lord's Prayer

### Chant 5x

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.

Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.

### Closing Prayer

God and Father of us all, you became flesh in your Son, Jesus Christ, who healed people when he walked the earth. May we, your Church, continue his healing ministry offering courage to those who are afraid, hope to those in despair, support to those who are alone, and light to any who dwell in darkness.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### All Sing: Your Peace Will Make Us One

Thank you for coming. Please join us again on August 4.



*Photo 118400615 / Communion of Saints ©  
Fotoandvideo | Dreamstime.com. Music in this  
Worship Aid was reprinted with permission under  
onlicense.net, #A-725830*