



Have a **conversation**
about race, privilege,
and social justice

Vigil for Peace and Unity

Opening Greeting:

+ The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Penitential Rite:

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer:

Peace Prayer – 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,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

A reading from the Holy 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

(Silent Reflection)

Litany for Peace in Our Communities Based on Psalm 88

Response: *God of peace, hear us and help us.*

By night we cry out, by day we rage at each other, *God of peace, hear us and help us.*

Calm us, quiet us, settle us, to hear the cry of those who are hurting, God of peace,...

Steady us, balance us, ground us, let us listen to the troubles around us, God of peace,...

Root us in patience, embed your love within us, God of peace...

Plant us in the soil of sorrow, and re-create us in empathy, God of peace...

Forgive us, pardon us, free us from racism and blindness, God of peace...

Support us, sustain us, protect us, as we find words to begin dialogue, God of peace...

Restore us in charity, refresh us with hope, God of peace...

Enfold us with unity, enrich us in love, God of peace...

Embrace us with courage, temper us with gentleness, God of peace...

Help us see You in those around us, God of peace...

Help us build communities of unity and justice, God of peace...

So that someday we may rejoice in your welcome, and enter your Kingdom singing your praise, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Our Father

Sign of Peace

Closing Prayer

Prayer to heal racial division - USCCB

We thank you, O Lord,
For in your loving wisdom
You created one human family
With a diversity
That enriches our communities.

We pray to you, O Lord,
That we always recognize
each member of this human family
As being made in your image and beloved by you,
With worth and dignity.

We pray to you, O Lord,
That we may envision a way forward
To heal the racial divisions
That deny human dignity and
the bonds between all human beings.

We pray to you, O Lord
That we may affirm each person's dignity
Through fair access for all
To economic opportunity, housing,
Education, and employment.

We pray to you, O Lord,
That we may have eyes to see
What is possible when we reach out
Beyond fear, beyond anger,
To hold the hand of our sisters, our brothers.

We thank you, O Lord,
For your call and challenge to us
That we may reveal your teachings and your love
Through our actions to end racism
And to proclaim that we are all your children,
heirs to your sacred creation. Amen.

Sign of the Cross