

PEACE – October

Call to Prayer: In a culture of rising tensions, violence and conflict, it's easy to lose our grip on peace. Most of us usually live in "*peacetime*," but is that going to last much longer? To strive for peace, we must understand what it is. Is it the absence of war? The absence of tension? These define it by what it is not. What is peace? St. Augustine has a great answer. Peace is the "*tranquility of order*," he says. adapted The Loop, 9/11/23



Leader: O God, come to our assistance
ALL: O Lord, make haste to help us.
Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Hymn: Peace is Flowing like a River



1. Peace is flow - ing like a riv - er,
Flow - ing out through you and me; Flow - ing out in - to the
des - ert, Set - ting all the cap - tives free.

Text: Unknown

Tune: Unknown; acc. by Diana Kodner, b.1957, © 1993, GIA Publications, used with permission, license #5393

Psalm 4 (Alternate sides) (adapted New International Version)

- 1 Answer me when I call to you, my God.
Give me relief from my distress;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 O people, how long will you turn my glory into shame?
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?
- 1 Know that you, my faithful servants, are set apart;
I hear when you call out.
- 2 Tremble and do not sin; search your hearts and be silent.
- 1 Offer your sacrifices and trust in me.
- 2 O God, many are asking, "Who will bring us peace?"
Let the light of your face shine on us.
- 1 Fill our hearts with joy and gratitude.
- 2 In peace, we will trust you, O God,
for you alone bring us peace.
- 1 Glory be ... 2 As it was ...



PEACE – October (con't)

Reading: What is your idea of peace? Is it reading a good book while you snuggle in a cozy chair next to a crackling fire on a cold winter's night? Do you yearn to be left alone to finish a project at work without interruption? Or are your thoughts more global as you pray for peace between nations or between political parties? The peace offered in this world is momentary, confined to the limits of time. However, God gives perfect peace, for ALL time. God offers this gift through Jesus who spoke these comforting words, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled."* (John 14, 27) In this world, there will be trials, but, if we accept the gift of Christ's love and our trust is in God, inner peace will be ours. adapted from PPT Vantage Point Devotional, 1/28/22

Response: Peace Quotes (Rotate reading these quotations with a slight pause between each.)

"Peace be with you!" (John 20:21) *is the greeting of Jesus to his disciples; this same peace awaits men and women of our own day.... It is a peace that does not divide but unites; it is a peace that does not abandon us but makes us feel listened to and loved; it is a peace that persists even in pain and enables hope to blossom."* Pope Francis Franciscan Meditation, 4/16/23

"... we can have no peace with God, with our neighbor or with ourselves, unless Jesus Christ gives it to us ..." St. Louise de Marillac, Spiritual Writings, page 197

"You will help others more by the peace and tranquility of your heart than by any eagerness or care you can bestow on them." St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Collected Writings, 3b, page 84

Reflection and Sharing:

How do I define peace for myself, for my family, for our world?
What can I do to live peacefully?

Intercessions (based on Psalm 88)

(All respond.) **God of peace, hear us and help us.**



- + By night we cry out, by day we rage at each other...
- + Calm, quiet, settle us; hear the cry of those who are hurting...
- + Steady, balance, ground us; let us listen to the troubles around us...
- + Root us in patience; embed your love within us...
- + Plant us in the soil of sorrow and re-create us in empathy...
- + Forgive, pardon, free us from bigotry and blindness...
- + Support, sustain, protect us; grace us to find words for dialogue...
- + Help us build communities of unity, justice and peace...

(Add your own prayers of intercession.)

Prayer: (All) I am peace, surrounded by peace, secure in peace. Peace protects me. Peace supports me. Peace is in me. Peace is mine. All is well. Peace to all beings; peace among all beings. I am steeped in peace, absorbed in peace, in the streets, at my work, in my ministry, having peaceful thoughts, peaceful words, peaceful acts. adapted Buddhist Meditation

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Prayer Texts

Colossians 3:15 "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." (NIV)

1 Peter 3:11 "... seek peace and pursue it." (NIV)

prepared for the Ladies of Charity by Sr. Carol Schumer, D.C.

