

# Giving Peace a Place

SPEAKING UP FOR THE PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA

## Prayer Resources

### THE 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 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.

### PRAYER FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA

“We pray for the peacemakers in Colombia, the churches, and all people who in countless ways seek to right the wrongs, heal the wounded and sick, speak the truth, and protect the vulnerable.

We give thanks for those who are empowered by their faith to be peacemakers. We ask that you would protect them from all harm and danger. God, give us strength as we seek to be voices for peace in Colombia, strengthen our efforts to bring forth the words of truth, compassion and peace that we receive from our Colombian brothers and sisters.

Bring us all to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly in your ways, through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

*From Lutheran World Relief, 2003*

### A PRAYER FOR INNOCENT VICTIMS

Almighty God, for the sake of whose Holy Child Jesus the children of Bethlehem suffered cruel death: have mercy, we beseech Thee, upon all those who innocently endure grief or pain, suffering wrongfully; and in all their afflictions incline Thine ear to hear them, and send the angel of Thy presence to console and save them; through Him who did not sin but bore our sins in His own body on the tree, Thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*From the National Council of Churches website [www.nccusa.org](http://www.nccusa.org)*

### PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN COLOMBIA

For a country which has been ravaged by war, death and violence for many decades...

Spirit, bring peace and justice.

For poor farmers and their families who produce both legal and illegal crops, trying to survive...

Spirit, bring peace and justice.

For the Colombian government, that it may seek just solutions, respectful of the dignity of the poor and vulnerable...

Spirit, bring peace and justice.

For the U.S. government, that its policies would focus on social and economic renewal, instead of military-focused solutions...

Spirit, bring peace and justice.

For ourselves and all citizens of the world, that we might advocate fair and sustainable solutions...

Spirit, bring peace and justice.

*From Education for Justice, a Catholic social justice organization*

## Litanies of Peace and Justice

### #1

- L:** Lord, so many people are in pain  
**C:** Teach us the way to peace.
- L:** When people around us don't agree and think differently,  
**C:** Lord, teach us to listen and understand.
- L:** When we see people getting hurt  
**C:** Lord, teach us to speak up.
- L:** When we see people who are hungry and poor,  
**C:** Lord, teach us to give to them like you give to us.
- L:** When we see people treated poorly because of their skin color or language,  
**C:** Lord, teach us to be an example of love.
- L:** When we see war and conflict around the world,  
**C:** Lord, teach us how to make a difference and bring peace.
- L:** When we see pain  
**C:** Lord, teach us to bring healing.
- L:** When we feel low and things don't seem to be going well,  
**C:** Lord, teach us to talk to our friends, our family and to you.
- L:** When we stop and see all you have given us.  
**C:** Lord, teach us to be thankful.
- L:** In our lives, our neighborhoods and the world  
**C:** Lord, teach us to pray and teach us the way to peace.

### #2

- L:** Lord, Heavenly Father help us to become peacemakers, that we may be called, "The Children of God"  
**C:** Lord, hear our prayer, and grant us Thy peace.
- L:** Lord, Heavenly Father, help us purge ourselves of those attributes which make not for peace but which set the stage for war.  
**C:** Lord hear our prayer, and grant us Thy peace.

- L:** Lord, open our minds to see ourselves as Thou seest us, or even, as others see us, and save us from all unwillingness to know our infirmities.  
**C:** Lord, hear our prayer, and grant us Thy peace.
- L:** From all hasty utterances of impatience; from the retort of irritation and the taunt of sarcasm; from all infirmity of temper in provoking or being provoked; from love of unkind gossip, and from all idle words that may do hurt, save us, O Lord.  
**C:** Lord, hear our prayer, and grant us Thy peace.
- L:** Grant us, O Lord, the strength to obey Thy commandments, that we defraud our brother in nothing. May we never commit adultery or do anything to disturb our neighbor's home or family.  
**C:** Lord, hear our prayer, and grant us Thy peace.
- L:** Lord, Heavenly Father, grant that we covet nothing that is our neighbor's, not his house, nor his auto, his bank account, his job, nor anything that is our neighbor's.  
**C:** Lord, hear our prayer, and grant us Thy peace.
- L:** Heavenly Father, help us to maintain peace within our own households, with our neighbors in our communities, within our own nations, and in the world.  
**C:** Lord, hear our prayer, and grant us Thy peace.
- L:** Lord, Heavenly Father we pray not only for the absence of war, but more especially for Thy peace, which passeth all understanding.  
**C:** Lord, hear our prayer, and grant us Thy peace.
- L:** Lord, Heavenly Father, grant us Christ's wish that we may become One with Him, and with Thee; that in union with Thee, we may desire only what Thou dost desire, and thus come to know Thy perfect peace.  
**C:** Lord, hear our prayer, and grant us Thy peace, this day and for evermore. Amen.



“Peace demands the most heroic labor and the most difficult sacrifice. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to the truth and a much more perfect purity of conscience.”

—St. Thomas Merton

## Hymns

**#561** Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

**#748** O God in Heaven

**#546** To be your Presence

**#524** What is this place

**#869** We have seen the lord

—*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**#841** O Son of God in Galilee

**#846** Your Hand, O Lord, In Days Of Old

—*Lutheran Service Book*

## Quotes

“One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.”

— *Martin Luther King Jr.*

“While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your hearts.”

— *St. Francis of Assisi*

## Other Reading Materials

*From Luther's Small Catechism*

Freely Serve Others as Your God Served You. “See, in this way the love of God flows from faith, and from love flows a free, willing, and joyful life of freely given service to our neighbor. For just as our neighbor suffers want and is in need of our surplus, so we have suffered want before God and were in need of His grace. Therefore as God has helped us freely through Christ, so we should devote our body and its activities to helping our neighbor. Thus we see what a high and noble life a Christian life really is.” (W7, 36–E 27, 196–SL 19, 1008)

