



Prayers for Peace in a Time of War
Compiled by the Bishop's Commission on Liturgy & Music
Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

From the Episcopal Church

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

From the Book of Common Prayer [pgs. 815-816]

Let there be peace

O God, who dwells beyond all our names for you,
we pray for the will to be at peace with one another.

We remember this day those who find themselves thrust into war;
We pray for light in the darkness, and hope amid despair.
We pray for peace in ourselves;
help us to breathe in peace, help us to breathe out love;
help us know and accept ourselves as your beloved.
We pray for peace in our families;
help us to speak the truth to one another in love;
help us to respect and value one another.

Let there be peace in our communities;
help us to create a peace born of justice and equity;
help us to honor and serve the common good.

Let there be peace in our nation;
sustain our hope; grant us wisdom;
empower us with courage.

Let there be peace in our world.
Help us to love the earth as our mother;
help us to see other nations as our neighbors;
help us to wage peace.

Let there be peace, O God, for those in need;
for those who are frightened, for those who have been displaced,
for those who are ill, for those who need work.
Let there be peace, O God, for all of us
who are tempted to give in to fear and despair.

Let there be peace in our time;
And let it begin with us.
Amen.

*from a Litany for Peace by the Reverend Kay Sylvester
Rector, St. Paul's, Tustin – Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles*

A prayer for matriarchs

God of our Mothers,
Whose almighty hand called forth matriarchs
to lead, liberate, and love your people.
You inspired mothers and sisters,
daughters and aunts,
to be your divine messengers throughout time.
Surround we pray
the fierce, fearless, and faithful women of our day,
especially the women of Ukraine,
with grace and courage
to boldly contend with injustice and oppression.
That following the example of those
who have gone before,
they may cast the mighty from their seats
and lift up the lowly and downtrodden.
God of our Mothers, hear us!
Amen.

*The Right Reverend Deon Johnson
Bishop of Missouri*

Prayers from the wider church

O Lord, God of life, as you care for all creation, give us your peace. May our security come not from weapons, but from respect. May our strength come not from violence, but from love. May our own wealth come not from money, but from sharing.

May our path be not one of ambition, but of justice. May our victory not be one of revenge, but of forgiveness. Unarmed and confident, help us to defend the dignity of all creation. Sharing today and always the bread of solidarity and peace. Amen.

*Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton,
ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)*

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders. We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy.

Amen

The Methodist Church, UK

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen

*Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*