

International Day of Prayer for Peace

Litany for Peace

One: From words and deeds that provoke discord, prejudice and hatred,

All: O God, deliver us.

One: From suspicions and fears that stand in the way of reconciliation,

All: O God, deliver us.

One: From believing and speaking lies about other peoples or nations,

All: O God, deliver us.

One: From cruel indifference to the cries of the hungry and homeless,

All: O God, deliver us.

One: From all that prevents us from fulfilling your promise of peace,

All: O God, deliver us.

One: *Deliver us from* our brokenness, we pray, O God,

All: and by your grace and healing presence *deliver us to You...*

One: To still waters and green pastures,

All: O Creating God, deliver us.

One: To the freedom and forgiveness we find in you,

All: O Risen Christ, deliver us.

One: To the tough task of loving our enemies,

All: O Jesus, deliver us.

One: To joyful service in your name,

All: O Servant of All, deliver us.

One: To the promise of a new heaven and a new earth,

To the wholeness of justice,

To the power of your peace,

All: O Holy Spirit, deliver us now and in the days to come.

Closing Prayer Charge our lives and our churches with the power of your peace, O God. Overcome our fears and self-deceptions with the promise of your presence. In this time of diminishing resources for families and nations, make us signs of your generosity and justice. Light us each day with hope, we pray, so that we may walk in your truth and be love in your Name. Amen.

Peacemaking is at the heart of the Gospel.

Jewish and early church concepts of peace embraced not only conflict resolution but also justice, welcoming community, and wholeness. This larger vision gives energy and spirit to the efforts of millions around the world to "build a culture of peace and nonviolence," in the words of an appeal signed by every living Nobel peace laureate that sparked the Decade for Peace.



Daniel W. Erlander

Prayer is central to peacemaking. We are capable of far more when we place our efforts in the hands of the One who is Peace, who has called us to be peace makers, and who walks with us on the Path of *Shalom*.

The International Day of Peace (September 21) was established in 1981 by the United Nations and has been observed as a world Day of Prayer since 2004 by growing numbers of congregations around the world. LPF leaders wrote the worship guide for that first Day of Prayer in 2004, adapted here.

How Can I Participate in the Day of Prayer for Peace?

- ✦ Make peace a regular part of your prayer life.
- ✦ Suggest a forum for your congregation on biblical peacemaking, conflict transformation, peacemaking in the family, church, community, and world.
For prayers and forum resources, see: www.lutheranpeace.org, www.ipj-ppj.org, www.elca.org/nonviolence, www.overcomingviolence.org, www.pcusa.org
- ✦ Think of those with whom you are in conflict. Plan time for listening, sharing your truth in love, confession, and reconciliation. For ideas: www.menolink.org ('When You Disagree'); www.lutheranpeace.org ('Conflict Ed,' 'Bridge'); www.cnvc.org
- ✦ Advocate for local and national policies that build a culture of peace; see alerts and updates from: www.lutheranpeace.org, www.elca.org/advocacy, www.fcni.org
- ✦ Plan a vigil or peace witness: www.idpvigil.com; www.christianpeacewitness.org ('Lifting Candles Together' guide); www.onearthpeace.org (guide, leader helps)

Other Resources

- ✦ For other ideas on observing the Day of Peace, see: www.cyberschoolbus.org, http://internationaldayofpeace.org/your_peace_day.html, www.worlddayofprayer.net
- ✦ Check calendars for peace events and activities: www.overcomingviolence.org, www.forusa.org, www.christianpeacewitness.org, www.lutheranpeace.org
- ✦ Religious Peace Fellowships are active within most denominations. To explore their resources or to share a link with a friend, see: www.forusa.org/rpf

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