

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, homeless, refugees,
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 widespread conflict and unequal resources for both 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 include both conflict transformation and also justice, welcoming community, wholeness... This larger vision gives energy and spirit to the efforts of millions around the world



All are welcome here Daniel W. Erlender

to "build a culture of peace and nonviolence." (In the words of an Appeal signed by every living Nobel peace laureate to encourage and expand nonviolence education.)

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 peacemakers, and who walks with us – and encourages us – on the Path of *Shalom*.

The International Day of Peace (Sept. 21) was established in 1981 by the UN. Growing numbers of congregations around the world have observed it as a world Day of Prayer since 2004. LPF leaders wrote the worship guide for the first Day of Prayer for Peace, used in 10,000 churches worldwide, adapted here.

How can I join in? Ways I can be involved:

- ❖ Make peace a regular part of your **prayer life**. Connect, share with others who do.
- ❖ Suggest a **forum** for your church on biblical peacemaking, conflict education for the family, church, community, world. For prayers, 7 forum leaders' guides, resources: www.lutheranpeace.org ... Also: www.ipj-pj.org, www.sanantoniopeace.center
- ❖ **Attend** or **plan** a vigil, peace witness, protest, etc.: over 1000 are taking place the week of Sept. 21! For locations, links, and a wealth of material on the power and potential of nonviolence: www.campaignnonviolence.org Also: Int'l Day of Peace vigils: www.idpvigil.com More examples of activities: <http://peacedaypray.tumblr.com>
- ❖ Think of those with whom you are **in conflict**. Plan time for listening, sharing your truth in love, confession, and reconciliation. See LPF's 'Conflict Education' leaders' guide: www.lutheranpeace.org Center for Nonviolent Communication: www.cnvc.org
- ❖ Advocate for local and national policies that build a culture of peace; see alerts & updates from: www.lutheranpeace.org, www.elca.org/advocacy, www.fcni.org

Other Resources

- ❖ **More ideas** on observing the Day of Prayer for Peace: www.worlddayofprayer.net
- ❖ Check **calendars** for peace events and activities: www.overcomingviolence.org, www.forusa.org, www.lutheranpeace.org Christian Peacemaker Teams: www.cpt.org
- ❖ **Religious Peace Fellowships** are active in most denominations. Explore their vision & resources; share a link with a friend: www.forusa.org/ → "Who We Are" ... **Affiliates**

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