

## Prayer

*A leader offers a prayer in these or similar words.*

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we trust in your unfailing love  
that draws us closer to you and inspires us to start afresh.  
Give us the will to commit ourselves anew to your mission of peace.  
Let your peace that surpasses all understanding  
fill our hearts, our world, and our universe;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

*A leader proclaims God's blessing in these or similar words.*

The blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us.  
The blessing of the Son  
who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with us.  
And the blessing of the Spirit  
who inspires us to reconciliation and hope  
be with us now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Song

*A song or hymn may be sung.*

## Peace

*A leader and the assembly may greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The greeting of peace may be shared by all.*

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## Acknowledgements

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

International Day of Prayer for Peace  
One Love: Building a Peaceful World  
World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence

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## Introduction

### Song

*A song or hymn may be sung.*

### Dialogue

*A leader begins the dialogue and the assembly responds.*

Christ sets before us this day life and death  
and calls for us to choose life that we and our children may live.  
**We accept life, so teach us to live.**

Christ sets before us this day the challenge to seek peace and to pursue it.  
**We accept the challenge of peace, so enable us to pursue it.**

Christ sets before us this day the call to be peacemakers;  
**to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to a suffering world.**

We gather to embody God's love and desire for peace for all people;  
**to hear and give voice to creation's cry for justice and peace.**

We gather to name and confront the influence  
of evil within and among us;  
**to repent of our silence and complicity  
with the powers of chaos and death.**

We gather to join with the oppressed and troubled people of the world  
in the struggle for liberation and peace;  
**to work for justice, healing and wholeness of life.**

We gather to embrace the unity of God's people and Christ's church;  
**to make peace a reality.**

## Prayer

*A leader offers a prayer in these or similar words.*

Lord, we pray for peace for those who weep in silence,  
peace for those who cannot speak,  
peace when all hope seems to disappear.

*Silence is kept.*

In the midst of rage, of violence and disappointment,  
In the midst of wars and destruction of the earth,  
Lord, show us your light in the darkness.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord, we pray for peace for those who raise their voices to demand it,  
peace when there are many who do not wish to hear of it,  
peace as we find the way to justice.

*Silence is kept.*

Keep your church free,  
that it may be the channel through which justice and peace,  
integrity and wholeness, harmony and goodwill  
may flow to the dispossessed and the desperate,  
that your kingdom may come in all its fulfillment  
of life and health and peace,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Reading

*One or more readings from scripture may be proclaimed.*

*The reading may be concluded:*

The word of the Lord. –or– Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Song

*A song or hymn may be sung.*

## Confession

*A confession may be said in these or similar words.*

O God of peace, you know us  
from before we were formed in our mother's womb.  
Forgive us when we only have good intentions  
and do not commit ourselves to concrete action for peace and justice.  
**Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.**

O God of justice, you judge our human race with mercy.  
Forgive us when we allow your image in us to be marred  
as we remain passive in face of so much violence and exclusion.  
**Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.**

O God of love, you have created humankind to be one great family.  
Forgive our inability to be reconciled with others,  
both our dear ones and our enemies.  
**Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.**

O God of grace, you have given us the gift of speech  
to be an instrument for change.  
Forgive us for the times when we have spoken too hastily  
without thinking of the consequences,  
or have remained silent out of fear or indifference.  
**Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.**

O God of life, you have placed us on this earth to tend and watch over it.  
Forgive us when we have failed to care for your world,  
to protect nature, the home you have given us,  
the home of our ancestors and of our descendants.  
Help us to promote life and seek peace.  
**Grant that our actions and our words may always promote peace.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.  
By grace we have been saved and our sins forgiven.  
Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.  
**Amen.**