

## Saturday Evening Prayer 7-29-17

*A few moments of silence to quiet our minds and hearts.*

### LEADER:

We begin, as we begin all things...

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

### INTRODUCTION:

St. Francis urged his followers always to be courteous and to avoid quarrels. The peace that St. Francis promoted was not merely an absence of violence but an actively non-violent way of life. It reached out in love to others, especially to those who are poor and who live on the margins of society. In St. Francis' time lepers were those most shunned, and it was to lepers that he turned first to bring the message of peace and love. No one and no thing is excluded from St. Francis' Peace which he believed was the Peace of the Lord God Himself. We are called and committed to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the prophetic spirit of St. Francis of Assisi's goal to work with others to promote justice, peace and care for creation in our time.

### Opening Hymn:

#### LOOK AND SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST

Based on Matthew 25:35-36, 40

Words Adapt. and Music by  
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The musical score is written in a single system with four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "I was hun-gry and you gave me food, I was". The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "thirst - y and you gave me drink, I was". The third staff continues with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "na - ked and you shared your clothes, I was the". The fourth staff concludes the melody with quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "stran-ger that you wel - comed in." The time signature changes to 4/4 for the first two staves, 3/4 for the third, and 4/4 for the fourth.

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### Prayer for Social Justice

#### READER 1:

Lord Jesus, Carpenter and King, supreme Sovereign of all men, look with tender mercy upon the multitudes of our day who bear the indignities of injustice everywhere. Raise up leaders in every land dedicated to Your standards of order, equity, and justice. Grant unto us, Lord Jesus, the grace to be worthy members of Your Mystical Body, laboring unceasingly to fulfill our vocation in the social apostolate of Your Church. Sharpen our intellects to pierce the pettiness of prejudice; to perceive the beauty of true human brotherhood. Guide our minds to a meaningful understanding of the problems of the poor, of the oppressed, of the unemployed, of all in need of assistance anywhere. Guide our hearts against the subtle lure of earthly things and undue regard for those who possess them. May we hunger and thirst after justice.

#### READER 2:

We especially hold in our hearts and prayers all those around the globe experiencing poverty, oppression and violence. O God, who makes peace and harmony in the heavenly spheres, help Your bewildered humanity understand the futility of war, and hatred and violence. Help us to overcome the rationalizations that ultimately end in justification of actions that inevitably lead to bloodshed and suffering. Help us to hear Your voice which counsels compassion, patience and rational discourse.

#### READING:

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans (12: 9-21)

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.



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**LEADER:** As we gather this evening, we recall the deep bond we have with all the people of our earth. We join our minds and hearts with all our sisters and brothers, for we are one.

**READER 1:**

I am the mother climbing over the rubble of destroyed buildings blocking the streets in Aleppo, hoping to find my children.

**READER 2:**

I am the aid worker in Darfur, unable to receive needed medical supplies, hoping that tomorrow a shipment will be able to get safely through.

**READER 3:**

I am the soldier in Egypt, hoping the day will not bring orders to fire on my own people.

**All:** I am your sister. I am your brother. We are one.

**READER 1:**

I am the grandmother fleeing the violence Nigeria in with only the clothes on my back, hoping to find a little peace in the refugee camp.

**READER 2:**

I am the doctor in Damascus, overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of wounded, hoping I can save at least a few of them.

**READER 3:**

I am the veiled woman in Iraq, afraid for my policeman husband, hoping he will not become a victim of the religious extremists.

**All:** I am your sister. I am your brother. We are one.

**READER 1:**

I am the shop keeper in Israel, sifting through the bombed out remains of my shop, hoping that there is enough to re-open tomorrow.

**READER 2:**

I am the young woman in the Democratic Republic of Congo, hoping that tonight I can sleep without fear.

**READER 3:**

I am the child in Mali, playing with my brother in a local field, hoping that we make it safely through the unexploded remnants of war.

**All:** I am your sister. I am your brother. We are one.



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**READER 1:**

I am the North Korean grandfather, separated from family members in the South for decades, hoping someday I will get to see them again.

**READER 2:**

I am the young girl in Afghanistan whose school was torn down, hoping someday it will not be against the law for girls to go to school.

**READER 3:**

I am the new father in Gaza, hoping my son will be able to grow up in a country that is not at war.

**All:** I am your sister. I am your brother. We are one.

**READER 1:**

I am the Mexican father, deported and separated from my wife and children, pleading with federal immigration officials to allow me to return to America.

**READER 2:**

I am a young woman who is a victim of sex trafficking, fearing for my life.

**READER 3:**

I am an American woman, whose hijab identifies me as a Muslim, praying that I will not be persecuted for my beliefs.

**All:** I am your sister. I am your brother. We are one.

**Leader:** O God, heart of all mercy and love, tonight, all over the world, your people, your children, gather to pray for peace.

**All:** May the Lord give us peace.

**Leader:** Although our hearts are heavy with the suffering of so many of our brothers and sisters around the world living in the midst of violent conflict, yet the promise of your mercy and peace fills our hearts with hope.

**All:** May the Lord give us peace.

**Leader:** We ask you to bring healing to those suffering from the violence, and comfort to those mourning the dead. Empower and encourage neighboring countries in their care and welcome for refugees.

**All:** May the Lord give us peace.



## Saturday Evening Prayer 7-29-17

**Leader:** Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms, and strengthen the resolve of those committed to peace. Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence and to seek reconciliation with enemies.

**All:** May the Lord give us peace.

**Leader:** Open our hearts and minds tonight to the conversion necessary to be people of peace. Like St. Francis did with the Sultan, show us how to reach out beyond our comfort zone, to actively share the promise of peace. We pray always in and with and through your Son, Jesus, Prince of Peace and Light of the World.

**All:** May the Lord give us peace.

**Leader:** Give us acute awareness of the social justice issues such as: Fair wages, equal housing, access to services, right to life, capital punishment, rights of all individuals especially individuals who are disabled or aged.

**All:** May the Lord give us peace.

**Leader:** Give us the wisdom and courage to develop and implement public policy that is sensitive to these issues and protect the health, safety and dignity of all.

**All:** May the Lord give us peace.

**Leader:** Help us to rededicate our desire and commitment to stand up for those who cannot stand on their own.

**All:** May the Lord give us peace.

**Closing Hymn:** Christ Be Our Light vs 2, 3 & 4 # 601 Music Issue

Final Blessing – **ALL:**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of peace – your shalom,  
A blessing of fullness and completeness,  
Your desire that all of creation be whole.  
Help me to be an agent of your peace,  
To share in word and deed the good news of shalom  
And so do your will on earth as it is done in heaven.  
In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace,

AMEN