

## INTRODUCTION

C. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A. **Amen.**

C. Peace be with you!

A. **And with your spirit.**

C. Dear brothers and sisters, as war and destruction spread in the beloved land of Ukraine, the Holy Father Pope Francis invites the bishops, priests, faithful and people of goodwill to join him in prayer at this hour, to implore from God the gift of peace. As always in times of suffering and danger, the eyes of believers turn to the Virgin Mother, Queen of Peace. We entrust to her intercession those who have lost their lives, their homes or their loved ones; the innocent who are continually at danger, the refugees and all those who suffer from this fratricidal war: may the Virgin Mary grant consolation, protection and hope. May her motherly love convert the hearts of men and women, so that this conflict may soon come to an end and nations may return to the path of dialogue and fraternal respect.

We now express our desire for peace by lighting a lamp in front of the icon of the Virgin.

*The lamp of peace is lightened*

## PENITENTIAL ACT

C. Through Mary's intercession, let us ask Christ her Son to forgive the hardness of our hearts and to make us instruments of his peace.

C. Lord Jesus, who came to proclaim liberty to captives and joy to the afflicted: Kyrie eleison.

A. **Kyrie eleison**

C. Lord Jesus, who inspire projects of peace so that peoples may meet in harmony: Kyrie eleison.

A. **Kyrie eleison**

C. Lord Jesus, who, by the power of your Spirit, gather the peoples of the earth into one family: Kyrie eleison.

A. **Kyrie eleison**

C. O God, our Father, send down upon us the riches of your mercy and welcome into your loving embrace every person and every people so that all your children, freed from the chains of violence and guilt, may raise their eyes towards a future of peace. Through Christ our Lord.

**A. Amen.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **First Reading**

From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (2,1-5)

This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it; many peoples shall come and say: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." For from Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

**A. Thanks be to God.**

*The Celebrant gives a brief homily*

*At the end of the homily, a piece of meditative music is played*

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

C. At this solemn and grave hour, we join in the prayer of the Holy Father Pope Francis and of all the bishops and priests of the world, who at this moment consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

*The Celebrant goes to the kneeler in front of the icon of the Virgin and recites the consecration prayer*

Reader: We are all invited to follow the prayer in silence.

C. O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our

times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: “They have no wine” (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God’s peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: “Behold your son” (Jn 19:26). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: “Behold, your Mother” (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The “Fiat” that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through

your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.

*The celebrant returns to his seat*

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**C.** Dear brothers and sisters, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary let us present to God the needs of the Ukrainian people and those of the whole world. In his goodness, may the Lord help us and grant us peace. We pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord, Prince of Peace, give all men the strength to overcome the temptations of hatred and revenge, the sincere desire to overcome divisions, the good will to live as brothers. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Lord, we ask that your Spirit of peace inspire our human relationships day by day, and that all political and social divisions find a solution in charity and justice. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Lord, we entrust to you all those in Ukraine who are suffering because of the war, the injured, the displaced, the refugees: may they find men of good will ready to welcome them and help them. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Lord, look upon all those who, in every part of the earth, suffer from war, violence, injustice and discrimination: convert the heart of man, so that all peoples may be gathered into one family and love one another as brothers and sisters. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

**C.** With confidence and humility we raise our prayer to you, o Lord: destroy hatred and appease every grudge, nourish in every man the love of freedom and the desire for dialogue. In your mercy sustain and comfort the victims of all injustice and kindle in their hearts the flame of your charity. We ask you this through Christ our Lord.

**A. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER AND SIGN OF PEACE**

C. Brothers and sisters, let us raise to the Father the prayer that Jesus, His Son, taught us.

**Our Father...**

C. Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of Your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**A. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours now and forever.**

C. Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**A. Amen.**

C. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**A. And with your spirit.**

C. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

## **FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING**

C. God, you are the true peace: grant to those who promote peace to persevere in their good deeds. Convert the hearts of those who promote hatred. Console the innocent who suffer and heal the wounds inflicted on them by war.

Through Christ our Lord.

**A. Amen.**

C. The Lord be with you.

**A. And with your spirit.**

C. May Almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**A. Amen.**

C. Go in peace.

**A. Thanks be to God**