

Psalms for prayer (followed by psalm prayers):

The following Psalms are provided as suggestions for prayer in this time as we join in prayer for the situation in Ukraine. The Psalms apply to many situations, but as you use them, think and pray especially about those impacted by this recent tragedy. You may read/pray all of them or select a few of them. You may find them in the Bible provided and then conclude with a psalm prayer for each one:

Psalm 13: Lord our God, by the light of the resurrection of your Son, you have helped us see that we shall not sleep in death forever. Look upon the sufferings of your Church, so that our hearts may rejoice in your saving help and sing you songs of praise; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 20: Lord God, you accepted the perfect sacrifice of your Son upon the cross. Hear us during times of trouble and protect us by the power of his name, that we who share his struggle on earth may share in his victory in heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Psalm 23: Lord Jesus Christ, shepherd of your Church, you give us new birth in the waters of baptism; you anoint us with oil and call us to salvation at your table. Dispel the terrors of death and the darkness of error. Lead your people along safe paths, that they may rest securely in you and dwell in the house of the Lord now and forever, for your name's sake. Amen.

Psalm 27: Gracious Father, protector of those who hope in you: You heard the cry of your Son and kept him safe in your shelter in the day of evil. Grant that your servants who seek your face in times of trouble may see your goodness in the land of the living, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 31: God of kindness and truth, you saved your chosen one, Jesus Christ, and you give your martyrs strength. Watch over your people who come to you now, and strengthen the hearts of those who hope in you, that they may proclaim your saving acts of kindness in the eternal city; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 46: Lord God, our refuge and strength, when the restless powers of this world and the waters of hell rise up against your holy city, watch over it and keep it safe. By the river that flows from the throne of the Lamb, purify this new Jerusalem as your chosen dwelling, for you are with us, our stronghold now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 56: Lord Jesus Christ, victims for our sins, you trusted in your Father's protection and kept silent when you were tormented. Give us that same confidence, that we may gladly suffer with you and for you, offering the Father our sacrifice of praise and walking before him in the light of the living; and to you be the glory now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 57: Lord, send your mercy and truth to rescue us from the snares of the devil, and we will praise you among the peoples and proclaim you to the nations, happy to be known as companions of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 63: Heavenly Father, creator of unfailing light, enlighten those who call to you. May our lives proclaim your goodness, our work give you honor, and our voices praise you forever; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 77: Heavenly Father, by signs and wonders you established your ancient covenant, and through the sacrifice of your Son you confirmed the new covenant yet more wondrously. Guide your Church to the land of promise, that there we may celebrate your name with lasting praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 97: God our king, you clothe the sky with light and the depths of the ocean with darkness. Among the peoples you work wonders, and rain terror upon your enemies. Do not try your servants by fire, but bring us rejoicing to the shelter of your home, where with your Son and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 99: Lord our God, King of the universe, you love what is right. Lead us in your righteousness, that we may live to praise you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 121: Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared a quiet place for us in your Father's eternal home. Watch over our welfare on this perilous journey, shade us from the burning heat of day, and keep our lives free of evil now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 123: Lord, our creator and redeemer, we look to you for all that we need. Look with favor on us, your servants, and give us your grace; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 130: God of might and compassion, you sent your Word into the world as a watchman to announce the dawn of salvation. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but listen to your Church pleading for the fullness of your redeeming grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 142: Lord Jesus, hanging on the cross and left alone by your disciples, you called on your Father with a mighty cry as you gave up your spirit. Deliver us from the prison of affliction, and be yourself our inheritance in the land of the living, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you are blessed now and forever. Amen.

A prayer litany:

In peace let us pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

Gracious God,

For peace in Eastern Europe, that You would bring an end to the war and restore peace and freedom to the people of Ukraine, let us pray:

Lord, have mercy.

For the children and young people in harm's way in that land, that You would preserve them in body and soul from suffering and injury, let us pray:

Lord, have mercy.

For the brothers and sisters in the churches of Ukraine and Russia, that You would keep their hearts from hating one another and that You would show them ways to promote peace, let us pray:

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have political responsibility in this conflict, that You would direct their hearts to peace, that You would help them to serve truth and justice, and that You would guard the hearts and minds of people from error and falsehood, let us pray:

Lord, have mercy.

For peace and harmony in our own country and the rest of the world, that understanding and truth would prevail, let us pray:

Lord, have mercy.

For peace in our own homes and families, and especially for children, that they would be nurtured and led to Your truth, let us pray:

Lord, have mercy.

For an end to the worldwide pandemic, that You would preserve people from sickness and that You would give new strength to nurses and doctors, to all who are sick, and especially to those whose names we mention now..., let us pray:

Lord, have mercy.

For our congregation and your Church around the world, that You would keep us in Your truth and that Your Holy Spirit would continue to call, gather, and enlighten people everywhere with the good news of salvation, let us pray:

Lord, have mercy.

Merciful God, keep us in Your peace, and grant peace to all people for whom we have prayed, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers for peace:

Heavenly Father, it is Your gracious will that Your children on earth live together in harmony and peace. Defeat the plans of all those who would stir up violence and strife, destroy the weapons of those who delight in war and bloodshed, and, according to Your will, end all conflicts in the world. Teach us to examine our hearts that we may recognize our own inclination toward envy, malice, hatred, and enmity. Help us, by Your Word and Spirit, to search our hearts and to root out the evil that would lead to strife and discord, so that in our lives we may be at peace with all people. Fill us with zeal for the work of Your Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which

alone can bring that peace which is beyond all understanding; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord our governor, your glory shines throughout the world. We commend our nation to your merciful care, that we may live securely in peace and may be guided by your providence. Give all in authority the wisdom and strength to know your will and to do it. Help them remember that they are called to serve the people as lovers of truth and justice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and, through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Ukraine:

Gracious God and Father, though Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to bring us Your heavenly peace, violence and conflict still rage among Your children on earth. We pray that in Your mercy You would cause this violence against the people of Ukraine to come to an end. Bring a restoration of calm and security and heal the wounds that have been inflicted. Restore peace so that what has been laid waste can again be planted and built up. Open Your fatherly heart and bountiful hand to help all in need. Deliver us from all conflict and strife, we may live in harmony and safety, and finally, having gained the eternal rest of the saints in glory, may praise and bless, worship and glorify You forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, I love peace and yet I now find that nations are entering into armed conflict. I know that wars come because we, Your creatures, are sinners, among whom I am chief. Grant us forgiveness and repentance for our failings in maintaining peace. You, O Lord, make wars cease to the ends of the earth. You break the bow and shatter the spear and burn the chariots with fire. (Ps. 46:9) Grant a speedy end to this conflict in Ukraine. May the horrors of war move the world's leaders to find a just and lasting solution to the things that now separate us. War so easily spirals out of control, so check the hatred and cruelty of the aggressors. Watch over the families and children

and all innocent parties in Ukraine. Instill in us all an abhorrence of war that will make us all work tirelessly to find peaceful ways to solve our world's problems. May this war against Ukraine, and all rumors of war, remind me that Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, will soon return to bring His kingdom of peace to all who believe in Him. Amen.

Holy Father, God of mercy, God of comfort, as the darkness grows and hatred and violence seem to triumph in this world, embrace in Your tender compassion all who suffer from Russia's attack against Ukraine. Remember all who have lost loved ones, and the many who are injured or in harm's way. Grant to them Your mercy, Your healing, Your protection. We remember that in Your Son You have given to us the Love that no hatred can overcome, the Life that no death can destroy, the Forgiveness that exceeds all the violence that fallen humanity inflicts upon itself. Make Your Church a firm witness to this unflinching hope. We pray these things in the saving name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for armed forces: Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country and those of others. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things that may serve with integrity and with honor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A general intercession: Watch, dear Lord, with those who wake or watch or weep, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, rest the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous. In your love, give us all this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In your prayers, remember:

those who have been displaced by the fighting and are fleeing to neighboring countries

those who cannot leave and are sheltering in subways and basements during air raids

the children of Ukraine who are enduring the trauma of war

President Putin and those perpetrating this war, that they be brought to repentance and justice and cease their aggression against the Ukrainian people

national leaders around the world, that they respond with wisdom and courage, preventing this conflict from escalating further than it already has

the elected leaders and armed forces of Ukraine as they defend their homeland

Christian churches and pastors in Ukraine as they care for their parishioners and communities in the midst of war

humanitarian workers, doctors, and others bringing mercy, food, shelter, and medical care to those in need