



Picnic Peace Liturgy

Memorial Day 2016

THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we Your servants give you humble thanks for all Your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages.
Amen.

Space to silently say "Thank You" to God

GOSPEL READING (The Beatitudes)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, **for they will be filled.**
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

OPEN TIME OF PRAYER

What is one great need in the world that breaks your heart?

Space to silently name it to God.

What beatitude would most enable you to address that great need and join God's work of redemption?

Space to silently name it to God.

And now, in the safety of this circle, please personalize and pray this prayer out loud...

God, please grant me _____ *(a beatitude like "mercy", "peacemaking", etc)* **as I humbly join your work of redemption in** _____ *(a place of brokenness in the world).*

PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, **let me sow love;**
when there is injury, **pardon;**
where there is doubt, **faith;**
where there is despair, **hope;**
where there is darkness, **light;**
and where there is sadness, **joy.**

Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

SENDING

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Go in peace and serve the Lord.
May we go with God for the sake of the world.
In the name of the Father, Son,
and the Holy Spirit.
Amen and amen.