

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

1860 Lake St. Louis Blvd
Lake St. Louis, Missouri 63367

The Mission of Church of the Transfiguration
is to be a Christian community;
accepting and inviting all persons to share in worship,
witness and service; as disciples of Jesus Christ
in the world.

A Litany for Fridays:
For discernment in times of violence

The form of the Great Litany has been used as the foundation for this litany. This litany was composed in response to the needs of the community of those who regularly participate in our Tuesday and Friday litanies. We discerned that we need to have an opportunity to lament our violent culture, to confess our complicity in the underlying problems of all violence, and to remember that we are an Easter people with the Spirit empowering us for the work that God has given us to do. And we need to pray for discernment so that we can understand what God is calling us to do. And we need to be given the courage to do it.

The flow of thought of this litany begins with calling upon our Triune God in faith and in trust, then enters into a brief time of lament in which we name our grief. We then pray for those who have been affected by violence. We confess our complicity in the culture of violence that pervades our world and, in our repentance, we call upon the Lord to accomplish in us the works of salvation. In hope and trust, we ask God to show us a way forward and the courage to follow where the Spirit leads us. We conclude with familiar prayers that will ground us in mercy, peace, and hope as we seek to discern where we are being led: the Trisagion, the Our Father (the Lord's Prayer), and a Prayer attributed to St. Francis.

This litany is adapted from several sources, from the United Church of Canada's "Prayer for Time of Violence," the Bishops Against Gun Violence's "Remembering All Who Have Been Affected by Gun Violence," the Ash Wednesday Litany of Penitence (BCP, p 267-9), and "A Prayer attributed to St. Frances" from the BCP (p 833).

In order to accommodate the limitations of technology, this Litany is arranged for 12 voices. Even-numbered voices pray the responses of the people. **Please note that the voices are heard in more than one portion of the Litany.**

All participants who are not assigned a number in a given portion of the liturgy are invited to mute their microphones and silently pray with the even-numbered voices.

If less than 12 people are present, more than one voice may be assigned to some participants.

After all voices are assigned, the service will begin with the ringing of a bell and a short time for briefly-stated prayer intentions, offered either silently or aloud. The service will end with the ringing of a bell.

The ringing of a bell then silence

I. voices 1 and 2 (asking for mercy from our trustworthy God)

From The Great Litany, BCP p 148

- 1 Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,
2 *Have mercy on us.*
- 1 Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,
2 *Have mercy on us.*
- 1 Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,
2 *Have mercy on us.*
- 1 Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,
2 *Have mercy on us.*

II. voices 3 and 4 (lamenting: naming our grief)

*Adapted from Prayer for Time of Violence, United Church of Canada
and "Remembering All Who Have Been Affected by Gun Violence, Bishops Against Gun Violence"*

- 3 Creator God, be with us in these times of trouble: we are surrounded by
images of violence.
- 4 *O Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer*
- 3 We grieve for a cycle of violence that seems never-ending, and for a world
that values some lives more than others.
- 4 *O Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer*
- 3 We grieve for the dead and accompany in prayer and love all those who
mourn the loss of life and security.
- 4 *O Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer*

III. Voices 5 and 6 (praying for those who have been affected by violence)

*Adapted from Prayer for Time of Violence, United Church of Canada
and "Remembering All Who Have Been Affected by Gun Violence, Bishops Against Gun Violence"*

- 5 Comfort those who mourn, O Lord. Dry the tears of those who weep.
Sustain those who feel diminished. Impart courage to the hearts of those
who feel helpless.
- 6 *God of Peace, sustain our broken hearts.*
- 5 We remember before you those injured or killed by violence. Grant them
rest and peace. May their lives continue to make a difference in our world.
- 6 *God of Peace, encourage our broken hearts*
- 5 We remember before you all communities torn apart by gun violence,
recognizing that each incident of violence affects all of us in our daily lives
and work. Renew our resolve to pursue peace in our cities and towns and
to respect the dignity of all human beings.
- 6 *God of Comfort, encourage our broken hearts*
- 5 We remember before you all school teachers and administrators who put
their students' needs ahead of their own safety.
- 6 *God of Courage, inspire our broken hearts*
- 5 For all first responders who witness the horror of gun violence while in
service to our communities, and for all those with responsibility for law
enforcement, we give you thanks for their answer to your call to protect
and serve and to seek justice. God of healing, grant them healing from
their emotional wounds.
- 6 *God of Courage, inspire our broken hearts*
- 5 We remember before you all who have committed acts of gun violence and
for their families. We remember before you all who use guns, power and
violence rather than respect and dignity to reconcile differences. Grant us
the strength to pursue justice with a voice of love.
- 6 *God of Forgiveness, enlighten our broken hearts*
- 5 We remember before you those suffering from mental illness who have

gone untreated, and those suffering from loneliness and isolation. Grant us guidance to be instruments of your love and healing.

6 *God of Healing, enlighten our broken hearts*

IV. Voices 7 and 8 (confession of our complicity in this violent culture)

*Adapted from The Ash Wednesday Litany of Penitence, BCP p 267-9
and "Prayer for Time of Violence," United Church of Canada*

7 Most holy and merciful Father: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

8 *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

7 we acknowledge we have failed to break down systems that oppress and marginalize because of race, sexual orientation, and gender identity

8 *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

7 We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

8 *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

7 We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

8 *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

7 We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

8 *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

7 Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

8 *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

7 Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

8 *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

7 Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

8 *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

V. Voices 9 and 10 (repenting)

Adapted from The Ash Wednesday Litany of Penitence, BCP p 267-9

9 Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

10 *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

9 For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

10 *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

9 For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

10 *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

9 Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

10 *Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.*

9 Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

10 *That we may show forth your glory in the world.*

9 By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

10 *Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.*

9 We beseech you, O God: to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit.

VI. 11 and 12 (asking for a way forward)

Adapted from Prayer for Time of Violence, United Church of Canada

11 O God, you call us to wrestle with how to respond to the devastation, death, fear, and hatred around us with compassion and prophetic love

12 *Grant us wisdom, courage, and grace to live into our baptismal vows.*

11 We lift up the voices of all who experience oppression, discrimination, and hatred.

- 12 *Creator God, be with us in these times of trouble.*
- 11 Open our ears so that we can listen carefully to hear the changes we need to make in our own lives and institutions so that we include rather than exclude.
- 12 *Creator God, guide us in these times of trouble.*
- 11 We give thanks for and offer support to the peacemakers and bridge-builders and those who fight hatred and fear with love and understanding.
- 12 *Creator God, grant us wisdom to know how to support them and courage to do so.*
- 11 We give thanks for those faithful witnesses who speak truth to power and call for conversion to Jesus' way of love.
- 12 *Creator God, grant us ears to hear.*
- 11 Open the eyes of our heart to imagine what new hope might look like in a world not filled with such violence and fear.
- 12 *Creator God, illumine our way.*

VII. Voices 1-12 (ending our prayers in faith, hope, and love)

The Trisagion, the Lord's Prayer, and A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

- 1 Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy on us.
- 2 Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
- 3 Give us today our daily bread.
- 4 Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
- 5 Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

6 O Lord, let your mercy be showed upon us
7 As we do put our trust in you.

8 Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
9 Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
10 where there is injury, pardon;
11 where there is discord, union;
12 where there is doubt, faith;
1 where there is despair, hope;
2 where there is darkness, light;
3 where there is sadness, joy.

4 Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
5 to be understood as to understand;
6 to be loved as to love.

7 For it is in giving that we receive;
8 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
9 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen*

10 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

The ringing of a bell closes our time of prayer.