



P: But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14:26-27

Opening hymn

Like a river, glorious
Is God's perfect peace,
Over all victorious
In its bright increase;
Perfect, yet it floweth
Fuller every day,
Perfect, yet it groweth
Deeper all the way.

*Stayed upon Jehovah,
Hearts are fully blest;
Finding, as He promised,
Perfect peace and rest.*

Hidden in the hollow
Of His blessed hand,
Never foe can follow,
Never traitor stand;
Not a surge of worry,
Not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry
Moves the spirit there.

Every joy or trial
Falleth from above,
Traced upon our dial
By the Sun of Love.
We may trust Him fully
All for us to do;
They who trust Him wholly

Find Him wholly true.

Lyrics: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

Music: James Mountain (1844-1933)

Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us. **(To be repeated thrice)**

P. O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.

(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

***All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.***

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Lesson 1 Isaiah 40:25-31

Lesson 2 Acts 1:1-11

Meditation

L: The Secret of Peace

The Lord of peace himself gives you peace. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Grace is a very special lady. One word comes to mind when I think of her: peace. The quiet and restful expression on her face has seldom changed in the six months I have known her, even though her husband was diagnosed with a rare disease and then hospitalized.

When I asked Grace the secret of her peace, she said, "It's not a secret, it's a person. It's Jesus in me. There is no other way I can explain the quietness I feel in the midst of this storm."

To trust in Jesus is peace.

The secret of peace is our relationship to Jesus Christ. He is our peace. When Jesus is our Savior and Lord, and as we become more like Him, peace becomes real. Things like sickness, financial difficulties, or danger may be present, but peace reassures us that God holds our lives in His hands (Daniel 5:23), and we can trust that things will work together for good.

Have we experienced this peace that goes beyond logic and understanding? Do we have the inner confidence that God is in control? My wish for all of us today echoes the words of the apostle Paul: "May the Lord of peace himself give you peace." And may we feel this peace "at all times and in every way" (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

Dear Lord, please give us Your peace at all times and in every situation.

To trust in Jesus is peace.

By Keila Ochoa, Our Daily Bread <https://odb.org/2018/04/23/the-secret-of-peace/>

Hymn- Peace be still

Master, the tempest is raging!
The billows are tossing high!
The sky is o'ershadowed with blackness,
No shelter or help is nigh;
Carest Thou not that we perish?
How canst Thou lie asleep,
When each moment so madly is threatening
A grave in the angry deep?

The winds and the waves shall obey Thy will,
Peace, be still!
Whether the wrath of the storm tossed sea,
Or demons or men, or whatever it be
No waters can swallow the ship where lies
The Master of ocean, and earth, and skies;
They all shall sweetly obey Thy will,
Peace, be still! Peace, be still!
They all shall sweetly obey Thy will,
Peace, peace, be still!

Master, with anguish of spirit
I bow in my grief today;
The depths of my sad heart are troubled
Oh, waken and save, I pray!
Torrents of sin and of anguish
Sweep o'er my sinking soul;
And I perish! I perish! dear Master
Oh, hasten, and take control.

Master, the terror is over,
The elements sweetly rest;
Earth's sun in the calm lake is mirrored,
And heaven's within my breast;
Linger, O blessèd Redeemer!
Leave me alone no more;
And with joy I shall make the blest harbor,

And rest on the blissful shore.

Words - Mary A. Baker, 1874. Music - Horatio R. Palmer, 1874

L: What is peace?

Is it before eyes close and breath is ceased?
Is it the moment before a drop of blood splatters, and is deceased?
Is it the last note of a dying bird's swan song
Or the second before a bullet breaks skin, because life is all wrong?

Is it that moment when joy is just born
Or is it when light chases night for a glorious morn?
Is it before metal touches wood, to fell the great tree
Or when the bubble climbs up water, and waits, before it breaks free?

What is peace?
Is it an anger from which it is born?
Or is it just the lull before the storm.
Does it require a thought or a reason?
Or foolishness, to make a mournful season.

Why is happiness only for a moment?
Isn't it sad that joy is short, and so quickly spent?
Why can't peace and happiness be on earth, as in heaven above?
Probably it will, when we learn to forgive and to share God's love.

(Cong. to stand)

Prayer of Peace

P: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offense, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.

C: Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

O Master, let me not seek as much
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love,

for it is in giving that one receives,
it is in forgetting self that one finds,
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life. Amen

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Prayer of Confession

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

P: Lord God, you have shown us such love, and stretched out your arms to draw us into your embrace. Yet we fail to accept your love, guidance and grace. Forgive us, dear Lord.

C: We are your children and fail to live in peace.
We are your voices and choose to be silent.
We are your hands and feet and walk a different road.
Forgive us, for ignoring your love, for not sharing your peace, for brushing aside your hand and trusting our own wisdom.
Enable us to worship you in spirit and in truth, to bring to you our joyful songs, that your name might be glorified through our words and lives. Amen

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Psalms 34

P: ¹ I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

C: ³ Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.

P: ⁵ Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.
This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.

C: ⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
Fear the Lord, you his holy people,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

P: ¹¹¹ Come, my children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Whoever of you loves life

and desires to see many good days,
keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from telling lies.
Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

C: ¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to blot out their name from the earth.
The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.
The Lord is close to the broken hearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

P: ¹⁹ The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all;
he protects all his bones,
not one of them will be broken.

C: ²¹ Evil will slay the wicked;
the foes of the righteous will be condemned.
The Lord will rescue his servants;
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

Intercessory Prayers

L: Gracious Lord, we dream of a world free of poverty and oppression, and we yearn for a world free of vengeance and violence.

When our hearts ache for the victims of war and oppression, help us to remember that you healed people simply by touching them. Give us faith in our ability to comfort and heal bodies and minds and spirits that have been broken by violence.

When the injustice of this world seems too much for us to handle, help us to remember that you fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. Give us hope that what we have to offer will turn out to be enough, too.

C: *To be sung*

Are you sitting idle?
Still there's work to do;
In the Master's vineyard
There's a place for you:
Be a faithful servant,
Ever ready stand.
Where the Master calls you—
Lend a helping hand!

Lend a hand, lend a hand, Lend a helping hand;
Weary ones are falling, Lend a helping hand!
Lend a hand, lend a hand, Lend a helping hand;
Jesus still is calling, Lend a helping hand!

L: When fear of the power and opinions of others, tempts us not to speak up for the least among us, help us to remember that you dared to turn over the tables of money changers in the Temple. Dear Lord give us the courage to risk following you without counting the cost.

When we feel ourselves fill with anger at those who are violent and oppressive, help us remember that you prayed for those who killed you. Loving father give us compassion for our enemies too and be ready to always lend a helping hand.

C: Is your voice now silent?
There are songs to sing;
Come and swell the chorus,
Make His praises ring!
Till the strains are wafted
Over, sea and land,
Reaching up to heaven—
Lend a helping hand!

Lend a hand, lend a hand, Lend a helping hand;
Weary ones are falling, Lend a helping hand!
Lend a hand, lend a hand, Lend a helping hand;
Jesus still is calling, Lend a helping hand!

L: When we tell ourselves that we have given all we can to bring peace to this world, help us to remember your sacrifice, and give us the miracle of losing a little more of ourselves in serving you and our neighbors.

Walk with us, Lord, as we answer your call to be peacemakers. Increase our compassion, our generosity and our hospitality for the least of your children. Give us the courage, the patience, the serenity, the self-honesty and the gentleness of spirit that are needed in a world filled with turmoil and terror. Amen.

C: Do your prayers no longer
Reach the throne of grace,
Asking that some wand'rer
Might his steps retrace?
Earnest prayer may keep him
From the sinking sand;
Yours today may save him—
Lend a helping hand!

Lend a hand, lend a hand, Lend a helping hand;
Weary ones are falling, Lend a helping hand!
Lend a hand, lend a hand, Lend a helping hand;
Jesus still is calling, Lend a helping hand!

Author: James Bruce Mackay, Music- John Robson Sweney
~Prayer written by Jack Knox, pastor of Salem (Oregon)

Gospel Reading

P: †Peace be with you all.

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by John 14:25-31

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So we believe and affirm.

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul.

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live!
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord, 'tis for thee, for thy coming, we wait;
The sky, not the grave, is our goal:
Oh, trump of the Angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope! Blessed rest of my soul!

Author: Horatio Gates Spafford (1873) Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE

Offertory Hymn

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'nly Friend
Thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice, who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,
Then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.
Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Author: Kathrina von Schlegel; Translator: Jane Borthwick (1855)
Tune: FINLANDIA Composer: Jean Sibelius (1899)

MESSAGE

Cong to stand

Closing Prayer

P: Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle,
the strength to be forgiving,
the patience to be understanding,
and the endurance to accept the consequences
of holding to what we believe to be right.

C: May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
and the power of love to overcome hatred.
In a world torn with abuse and violence,
we pray for the strength and the courage to fight wrong.

Help us to devote our whole life, thought and energy
to the task of making peace,

praying always for the inspiration and the power
to share your love and peace in this world. Amen

Benediction

P: Now may the Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of
YOU. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

May the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge
and love of God. May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and among you and make you
worthy of all good gifts.

Go in peace and serve the Lord, Amen.

Doxology and Kiss of Peace

Peace, peace God sweet peace
Peace and joy and love
Peace, peace God sweet peace
Sent from heaven above.

Peace, peace God sweet peace
Peace to one and all
Peace, peace God sweet peace
Showers of blessings to fall

Peace, peace God sweet peace
Peace and joy and love
Peace, peace God sweet peace
Sent from heaven above.

Primrose Mar Thoma Church Choir- May 2018