



Worship Resources for the Eastern European Crisis

March 2022

This resource is provided to assist worshiping communities as they respond to the crisis in Eastern Europe. Several prayers are provided that could be used during the prayers of intercession or at other times, in public worship or for devotional use at home or in other settings. [Learn more about the ELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response efforts in Eastern Europe](#) and how you can support these efforts.

If a longer service of prayer is desired, consider using the “Service of Word and Prayer” as a guide (All Creation Sings, p. 42). The resources for lament in All Creation Sings (p. 61), may also be utilized. These resources are also available to subscribers of [sundaysandseasons.com](#).

Petitions for Prayers of Intercession

One or more of the options below could be included as part of the prayers of intercession. You may select and adapt as needed for your context.

Merciful God, we pray for peace as war rages in Ukraine. Shelter all living in fear; protect those seeking refuge in neighboring countries; sustain families separated by the horrors of war; tend to those who are injured; comfort all who mourn their dead. Direct your people into the way of peace. In your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

O God, as war between Russia and Ukraine rages, we pray:

For all in hiding, searching for safety...
For those forced to take up arms...
For all journeying to new lands, leaving behind homes and loved ones...
For children surrounded by confusion and chaos...
For those in Russia who bravely advocate for peace...
For journalists risking safety to report on daily events...
For those consumed by the power to dominate and control, that they are filled with compassion for all people...
For the difficult work of diplomats, world leaders, and international organizations ...
For all providing welcome, protection, and sustenance to those who have fled...
For medical workers as they attend to the injured...
For all grieving those who have died...

Other needs related to the crisis in Eastern Europe may be added.

In your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, your strength comes not by grasping power and might but is poured out in loving service. Support us with such strength to work for peace, to love our enemies, and to trust in your resurrection life even in the midst of pain and death. In your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

The following prayer from Latin America is provided in the original Spanish and adapted in English.

Oh, Señor, Dios de Vida,
que cuidas de toda la creación,
¡danos la paz!

Que nuestra seguridad no provenga de las armas
sino del respeto;

que nuestra fuerza no sea la violencia
sino el amor;

que nuestra riqueza no sea el dinero
sino el compartir;

que nuestro camino no sea la ambición
sino la justicia;

que nuestra victoria no sea la venganza
sino el perdón.

Desarmados y confiados,
queremos defender la dignidad de toda la creación,
compartiendo, hoy y siempre,
el pan de la solidaridad y de la paz.

Por Jesucristo, tu divino Hijo, nuestro hermano,
que, hecho víctima de nuestra violencia,
desde lo alto de la cruz,
dio a todos tu perdón. **Amén.**

—*Red Crearte, a liturgical network of Latin American Christians*

O Lord, God of life,
as you care for all creation,
give us your peace!

May our security come not from weapons,
but from respect;
may our strength come not from violence,
but from love;
may our wealth come not from money,
but from sharing;
may our path be one not of ambition,
but of justice;
may our victory not be one of revenge,
but of forgiveness.

Unarmed and confident,
help us to defend the dignity of all creation,

sharing, today and always,
the bread of solidarity and peace.

Through Jesus Christ, your divine Son, our brother,
who, made victim from our violence,
from high on the cross,
offered forgiveness to all. Amen.

—*Vida en la tierra, Latin American Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches (AIPRAL) 2006*

After an Act of Violence

God of grace and peace,
we pray for the people Ukraine and Eastern Europe.
Help and heal the wounded,
receive the dying into your embrace,
and comfort those who mourn.

Strengthen rescue and relief workers
who protect and provide for others
in the midst of crisis and chaos.

Give leaders the wisdom and determination
to understand the causes of hatred
and prevent it from gaining force.

Put an end to all violence and war,
and restrain the impulse
to use injustice to seek justice.

Continue to pour out your mercy
upon the victims of violence in
[other places of recent violence],
and all the places we forget or ignore.

Surround us all with your grace
and bring peace to our weary world.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(adapted from *Book of Common Worship, Prayer #9, p. 621*)

Topical Prayers

For Peace

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. (ELW p. 76)

Gracious and holy God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p. 76)

You calm and quiet us, eternal God, as a mother holds her children close; all people have refuge in the shadow of your wings. Spread over us the shelter of your peace. Hold before us the wisdom of your cross, where we are drawn to you not by might or power, but by your boundless love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ACS, pg. 48)

Holy God, out of your great love for the world, your Word became flesh to live among us and to reconcile us to you and to one another. Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit so that we seek to live in unity with all people, breaking down the walls that divide, ending the hostility among us, and proclaiming peace to those who are near and to those who are far away; through Christ Jesus, in whom we all have access in the one Spirit to you, both now and forever. Amen. (ACS, pg. 48)

A prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we 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. (ELW, p. 87)

Time of war

Eternal God, whose steadfast love never ends, we ask that you look upon the nations now engaged in war and hasten the day of peace. Look in mercy on those exposed to peril, conflict, sickness, and death; and show compassion to the dying. In your good providence, remove all causes and occasions of war. Incline the hearts of all people to follow the path to peace and concord, that war may cease and the day of reconciliation may come quickly, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Prayer Book for the Armed Services, p. 71)

Time of Conflict, Crisis, Disaster

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p. 76)

God most mighty, God most merciful, our sacred stories tell us that you help and save your people. You are the fortress: may there be no more war. You are the harvest: may there be no more hunger. You are the light: may no one die alone or in despair. God most majestic, God most motherly, grant us your life, the life that flows from your Son and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (ACS, pg. 49)

International Organizations

O God,
we pray for all international organizations of goodwill,
that their efforts may lead to a strengthening
of those influences which make for peace.
As great sacrifices have been made for war,
awaken in us and in all people, O God,
the willingness to make great sacrifices for peace,

so that the day may be hastened
when no nation shall draw the sword against another,
and people no longer shall learn to fight.
We ask in the name of him who is the Prince of Peace. Amen .
—*From the Mainau Prayerbook*

Refugees, migrants, immigrants

O God, as you guided the Israelites to a new land by pillars of cloud and fire, now travel alongside all people who seek safety from persecution and a better life. (*Especially we pray for those fleeing violence in Ukraine.*) Provide them with what they need as they travel, and guide them to places of welcome and sanctuary. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen. (ACS, p. 51, adapted)

Holy God, as you have accompanied your people through times of captivity, wilderness, and exile, shelter and sustain all those who flee persecution, oppression, warfare, violence, hunger, and poverty. Open our hearts and homes, our gates and doors, so that they find safety, peace, and welcome—a place to live in freedom and without fear; through Jesus Christ, our refuge and our hope. Amen. (ACS, p. 51)

Our enemies

Gracious God, your Son called on you to forgive his enemies while he was suffering shame and death. Lead our enemies and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW, p. 80).

Suggested Hymns and Songs

ELW 247	Come Now, O Prince of Peace
ELW 325/TFF 66	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
ELW 626	By Gracious Powers
ELW 632	O God, Our Help in Ages Past
ELW 642	Ubi caritas et amor
ELW 700	Bring Peace to Earth Again
ELW 704	When Pain of the World Surrounds Us
ELW 705	God of Grace and God of Glory
ELW 709	When Our Song Says Peace
ELW 711	O Day of Peace
ELW 713	O God of Ev'ry Nation
ELW 753	Dona nobis pacem
ELW 757	All My Hope on God Is Founded
ELW 773/TFF 193	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
ELW 887	This Is My Song
ACS 989	Let Your Peace Rain Upon Us / <i>Yarabba ssalami</i>
ACS 1023	God Alone Be Praised
ACS 1026	In the Midst of Earthly Life
ACS 1051	For the Troubles and the Suffering / <i>Pelas dores deste mundo</i>
ACS 1052	When Our World Is Rent by Violence

ACS 1055	Ayúdanos, oh Dios / <i>Oh, Help Us, Save Us</i>
ACS 1085	Hope of the World
W&P 17	Beauty for Brokenness
W&P 95	Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

In addition to the hymns and songs suggested above, assembly song under the headings of “Hope, Assurance,” “Healing, Wholeness,” “Justice, Peace,” and “Lament” in ELW and ACS may be especially appropriate.

ELW: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

ACS: *All Creation Sings*

TFF: *This Far By Faith*

W&P: *Worship and Praise*

Resources

- ❑ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Pew Edition*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006.
- ❑ *All Creation Sings*: Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2020.
- ❑ *This Far By Faith*: Pew Edition. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1999.
- ❑ *Worship and Praise*: Pew Edition. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1999.
- ❑ *Sundays and Seasons*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. Print version published annually by church year.
 - ❑ Also available as an online subscription at www.sundaysandseasons.com.
- ❑ *The Book of Common Worship (2018 edition)*, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Westminster John Knox Press, June 2018.
“Additional Prayers” from Book of Common Worship included in this resource are © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press and used with permission. All rights reserved.

Additional resources

- ❑ “For the Healing of the Nations,” Intercessory prayer for peoples, lands and nations based on Isaiah 65 and Revelation 21, pp 115-122. [*Holden Prayer Around the Cross*](#): Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. 2009. Other liturgies in this resource may also be fitting in your context.
- ❑ [ELCA Eastern European Crisis Response](#)
- ❑ [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Prayer for Ukraine](#)
- ❑ [United Church of Christ prayer resource](#)

Copyright © 2022 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

This document may be reproduced for use in your congregation as long as the copyright notice appears on each copy. Permission is granted to reproduce this material for local, non-sale use only.