

Lament Liturgy

Call to Prayer

Leader: The God of love opens our eyes to see the suffering of all our sisters and brothers,
People: And we will see.

Leader: The God of justice opens our ears to hear those who cry out,
People: And we will hear.

Leader: The God of healing opens our hearts to acknowledge and share our own pain,
People: And we will bear it together.

ALL: O God, who created us all in your image and likeness, who knew us all before we were born, ground us in your mercy and grace as we pray. By your compassion grant us what we need: the courage necessary to love boldly, the vulnerability necessary to trust, the submission necessary to heal, the conviction necessary to repent. We belong to you.

Prayer of Confession & Repentance

Leader: For the injustice and unrest in our world, to which we the Church contribute and in which we share,
People: Forgive us, O Lord.

Leader: For the times we have been consumed by ourselves or too apathetic to see and respond to the deaths of those you hold dear,
People: Forgive us, O Lord.

Leader: For the times we have chosen to hate those who have caused us pain,
People: Forgive us, O Lord.

Leader: For the times we have not welcomed you into our suffering and disappointment, but relied on ourselves,
People: Forgive us, O Lord.

ALL: God of compassion and grace, have mercy on us.

Prayer of Lament

Leader: God of love, your creation weeps.
People: Hear the cries of the voiceless.

Leader: See the pain and injustice perpetuated against your image bearers.
People: Hear the cries of the powerless.

Leader: How long, O Lord will evil continue to prosper and the vulnerable suffer?
People: We long for your justice.

ALL: God of justice and righteousness, hear our cries.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Through God's strength and in His name,
People: We will work for justice.

Leader: With the compassion of Christ,
People: We will love and forgive radically.

Leader: Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
People: We will see restoration in our broken world.

ALL: (prayer of St. Francis)
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, 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.