

Redeemer Day of Prayer: March 2, 2026

Healing Divisions

Good and gracious God, this day and every day we thank You for always welcoming us to come to You in prayer. On this day we especially pray for

- healing of divisions in our country/world and in our lives, and for
- peace and care for all people.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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For meditation music by Redeemer's choir, [click here](#).

"Veni Sancte Spiritus" Taize ELW 406; "Let My Prayer Rise Up", Holden Evening Prayer; "Jesus, Remember Me" Taize ELW 616

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Loving God, we thank you for your care and protection of the most vulnerable in our society - those who are unhoused, undocumented, and hungry. Help us set aside our doubts and work to improve the lives of all your people and to love each other as much as you love us. AMEN

Father, show us how to heal the social and political divides within our community and our country. You have created us all to be unique with an infinite number of ways of thinking and living. Help us embrace the diversity of your creations and accept our differences, along with our similarities. AMEN

Comforting God, in this season of unrest, worry, and concern, give us the courage to practice radical peace within our hearts and our communities. Show us a path to peacefully defend the ideals of justice, freedom, equality, and respect for all. Help us enable change through the active demonstration of your love. AMEN

Lord, in the brief time your son walked among us, he modeled love, healing, and compassion despite ridicule, betrayal, and violence. Grant us the courage to practice that same radical

humility in challenging and difficult times. Help us to be strong in the face of injustice and greed with the same level of grace he demonstrated. AMEN

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"Dona nobis pacem" is a Latin phrase translating to "Grant us peace" or "Give us peace" The hymn by the same name repeats this line in canon seemingly infinite. The melody is relatively easy, with the second and third line supplying mostly harmony to the first line. Published in more than 50 hymnals and easy enough for children's choirs to sing, it proclaims what we often recite on Sundays (the blessing the Lord gave to Moses in Numbers 6:22-26:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

When peace seems further from our grasp than ever, listen to the round "Dona nobis pacem" as it loops and repeats, finding harmony within itself; may the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqt7wNu1jQs>

Dona Nobis Pacem Traditional

Andantino

1 Do-na no-bis pa - cem, pa-cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

2 Do - na no - bis pa-cem, do-na no-bis pa - cem.

3 Do - na no - bis pa-cem, do-na no-bis pa - cem. Eng

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A Prayer for Unity

God, You alone have the power to unite Your children. You cleanse sinful hearts, heal broken families, and bring divided nations back to You. Help me remember Your ability to bring us together and Your desire for unity. Please mend the divisions within me and in the world around us.

Jesus, because of Your death and resurrection, I am part of Your body—the global Church. Help me take my role in it seriously, knowing that my choices reflect how Your Church is perceived. Use me to bring hope, love, and joy to the world, and empower me to build others up. Bring revival to Your people, so that Your body can represent You authentically and powerfully.

God, You know how much division exists in this world. I pray that Your Church will serve as an example of the unity that only Your love can bring. Help me promote unity in every environment I enter, seeking to understand others and keeping my focus on Christ. In Jesus' name.

God, please fill me with a spirit of unity. I want to be a uniter, not a divider. Grant me the ability to speak with understanding and compassion, reflecting Your love. Remove my pride in wanting to be right and replace it with a heart that seeks harmony. In Jesus' name, amen.

From: finds.life.church

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Prayer for Unity, Reconciliation, and Healing

*Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.
– Ephesians 4:3 NLT*

Lord, our world feels so divided, even within families and friendships. Help me be a peacemaker in my relationships, building bridges instead of walls. Show me how to listen and understand with humility, allowing Your Spirit to guide my words and actions. May Your peace be the foundation of every connection. Amen.

From: www.air1.com

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Prayer for Civic Leaders

God our Father,
You guide everything in wisdom and love.
Accept the prayers we offer for our nation.
In your goodness,
watch over those in authority
so that people everywhere
may enjoy freedom, security and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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Prayer for Leaders of Nations

Lord Jesus you are King of kings and Lord of lords. We place into your care the leaders of nations.

Guide them to be creative in addressing the needs of people who are hungry, those without access to clean water and sanitation, and those who are fuel poor, may their priority be the well-being of people living in poverty.

We pray also that they promote among their people care for the natural world. May they pursue initiatives which address the climate crisis and enable countries to reduce carbon emissions. May the use of natural resources, such as fish stocks and forests, be monitored and sustainably managed.

Help them also to develop good relationships between one another. May they seek to make the world a place where bitterness and strife, revenge and division between nations no longer exists. May they seek international agreements in trade, education, culture, health and welfare that recognize our interdependence and promote unity. Guide their decision making so that people may live in peace and security.

Open their hearts to find agreement on ways in which, working collaboratively, the world can tackle the global challenges we face. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

From: www.praytoday.uk/more-prayers/prayers-for-leaders-of-nations

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Prayers for Harmony, Compassion, and Mercy Among World Leaders

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! — Psalm 133:1

Lord, we ask for Your divine intervention to foster harmony among world leaders. May they work together in unity, setting aside differences for the greater good of humanity. Amen.

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. — Galatians 3:28

Almighty God, help our leaders to embrace the beauty of diversity. May they find strength in their differences and work together to build a world that reflects Your love and unity. Amen.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. — Ephesians 4:3

Lord, inspire our leaders with a shared vision for peace. May they collaborate with open hearts and minds, striving to create a world where justice and tranquility prevail. Amen.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. — Matthew 5:7

Lord, we pray that our leaders govern with mercy. May they be fair and just, always considering the well-being of the most vulnerable among us. Amen.

From: www.prayersfor.com/prayers/world-leaders

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Dear Heavenly Father,

We come before You with humble hearts, seeking Your divine guidance and wisdom for our world leaders. Grant them the strength to lead with integrity and compassion, always striving for justice and peace.

Lord, fill their minds with clarity and their hearts with empathy. May they be instruments of Your will, working tirelessly to uplift the downtrodden and bring hope to the hopeless. Surround them with wise counsel and protect them from the snares of corruption and greed.

We ask that You bless them with the courage to make difficult decisions and the humility to seek Your guidance in all things. Let Your light shine through their actions, inspiring unity and understanding among nations.

In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

From: www.prayersfor.com/prayers/world-leaders

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The hymn “When Peace Like a River” (#785 in our hymnal *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*), also known as “It is Well with My Soul”, reminds us that God is still in control.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65MmSeJpmgE> [may include an ad at the beginning of the video]

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Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Trinity, one God, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who came from many nations with many languages, a united people that delights in our many different gifts. Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our sovereign and our Savior. Amen.

From: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

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Pastor Jeff Wilson preached this sermon on Feb. 8 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Buffalo, NY. (He was the Associate Pastor at Redeemer in 2002-2007.) The Gospel reading for that Sunday began with this verse (Matthew 5:13) when Jesus said:

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

Declared to Be Salt

Called to Bring Out the Flavor of Jesus in the World

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Knowing What Kind of Salt You Have

Some of you know I like to cook. Today, I'd like to talk with you about a very important tool in cooking ... salt.

I've got several different kinds of salt in my kitchen: table salt, kosher salt, sea salt, Himalayan sea salt, and a smattering of other smoked salts and finishing salts. Some of you may also use salt for a water softener. This time of year, we are also familiar with the salt we use to melt snow and ice.

It helps to know what kind of salt you have in order to know how best to use it. I don't want to use de-icing salt to make bread, for example.

The salt we use for food has a purpose. It gives flavor. It preserves food. We salt pasta water to make really tasty pasta.

You can use the salt—or you can choose to leave it on a shelf. That doesn't mean it stops being salt; it just means you're not using the salt for one of its intended purposes.

A Declaration, Not a Condition

Jesus says to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth. Notice that Jesus is making a declaration of fact. He didn't say: "You might be the salt of the earth," "You might become the salt of the earth," or "If you're really, really good and do all the right things... after an as-yet undetermined probationary period... then you'll be salt."

Instead, Jesus simply tells us, "You **are** the salt of the earth." Jesus also says, "You **are** the light of the world." Both of these are declarations, not questions or conditions.

Salt and light—these words function as both noun and verb. The noun describes what something *is*. The verb describes what it *does*.

Different Salts, Different Purposes

So, does Jesus declare that you and I are salt? Yes. But we know there are different kinds of salt. Does Jesus need all of us to be the same kind of salt, the same amount of salt, and serve the same purpose?

When I add salt to something I'm cooking, my goal isn't for my guests to say, "Oooo... that's some good salt!" No. I want the salt to bring out the flavors that are already there. Salt isn't about itself; it's about enhancing something else.

When we are salt of the earth, our goal isn't for people to say, "Wow! Now *that's* a salty Christian!" Our goal is to so season the world around us—and the circumstances we're involved in—that people taste and see the goodness of God. We want people to be able to taste the presence of God in every aspect of life and see how God's presence enhances life.

Salt on the Shelf—or Salt in Use?

We have the ability to choose whether we're going to use our salt in the world or leave it on the shelf. I wonder if this is what Jesus meant when he talked about salt losing its saltiness—simply that it's not being used?

Salt for the Sake of Others

At the opening ceremony for the Olympics, IOC President Kirsty Coventry referenced the African concept of *Ubuntu*, which means, "I am because we are." She said, "we can only rise by lifting others, and that our strength comes from caring for each other."

We're all tired of hearing people divide into sides. It is precisely for such a time as this that the Church exists. It's for such a time as this that you and I are declared to *be* the salt of the earth—and called to use it. We are declared to *be* the light of the world—and therefore called to shine.

What Kind of Salt Are You?

So, what kind of salt are you? In other words, what are your gifts and passions for bringing out the flavor of God's love that's already present?

Then, find others with similar gifts. We add our teaspoon of salt to another person's half-teaspoon and another person's tablespoon. Before long, we've got a good bit of salt—and you can really do a lot of seasoning with that.

As a noun, we *are* salt. As a verb, we season the world with the love, mercy, justice, grace, humility and faith of Jesus.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.