

Closing Litany

Call to Worship from Psalm 85:8–9

- ⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
 for he will speak peace to his people,
 to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
- ⁹ **Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,**
 that his glory may dwell in our land.

Confession

One: As the Body of Christ in the United States, we confess that by not speaking truth to power we have failed to follow the call of Jesus to serve God with love and compassion for all people.

Let us now confess to the LORD:

All: We have failed to challenge our government's policies

One: Hear our prayers of confession;

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: We have supported a system of control, inequality and oppression through misreading of our Holy Scriptures, flawed theology and distortions of history.

One: Hear our prayers of confession;

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: Instead of speaking and acting boldly, we have chosen to offer careful statements designed to avoid controversy and leave cherished relationships undisturbed.

One: Hear our prayers of confession;

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: We have excused Israel's actions that violate international law, isolating it in the community of nations and virtually eliminating the possibility of a sustainable peace.

One: Hear our prayers of confession;

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: We have forgotten the difference between a theology that supports the policies and institutional structures of oppression and a theology that, in response to history and human affairs, stands boldly with the widow, the orphan, the poor and the dispossessed.

One: Hear our prayers of confession;

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord

All: We have acceded to the reality of a powerful political lobby that suppresses conversations about human rights.

One: Hear our prayers of confession;

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: We have invested in corporations that help carry out and profit from the occupation of Palestinian lands.

One: Hear our prayers of confession;

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All:

In all of this, we have failed in our responsibility, not only toward the Palestinians, but also toward the Israelis, who suffer politically, economically and spiritually in their role as occupiers.

Assurance of Pardon Psalm 145:13b–19a

The Lord is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶ You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

All: Glory to God! Amen.

Call to Discipleship

All: We are grateful for the gift of this Kairos, this divine summons to read the signs of the times and to recognize that the favorable time has arrived. Let us celebrate the appearance of this time as we set out the path we will follow, as individuals and as communities. It is a path that may bring pain, loss and cost, but one that leads to the fulfilling of God's will: to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God."

Benediction And now go out into the world to learn, proclaim, and enact peace with justice in God's world for all people. And as you go, may the grace of God, the love of Christ, and friendship of the Holy Spirit be and abide in you today and everyday.