

Prayer of Confession – We Forget Your Peace Offering

Our Heavenly Father,
How enriched we are

through the sanctifying knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
whom you sacrificed for the world
to usher in peace between humanity and God.

You broke down the wall of hostility that separates one from the other
through Jesus, our unity;

but Lord, we have either forgotten or ignored this peace offering.

We acknowledge today your gracious and long-suffering nature
in turning our unworthiness into freedom and confidence
to kneel before your presence
through the redeeming work of Jesus' blood.

And as we commune with you through your Holy Spirit,
we are reminded of the riches of Jesus' glorious inheritance
we together have in the saints
and your incomparably great power resident within us
to effect change in the world.

We are grateful, Lord God.

We make ourselves aware, Lord,
of your intent to use the church
to display your manifold wisdom to the rulers and authorities,
both of the world and the heavenly realm.

We, the body of Christ, take stock of this eternal purpose of yours
and approach your throne to stand in the gap
on behalf of our lands during these grave, dark times.

Forgive us, Father, for breaking the bond of peace with our sisters and brothers
through reckless and dangerous acts,
unjust laws, and insensitive words.

We stand convicted in your court and hang our heads in shame.

Do we need to draw your attention to the plight of millions
affected by COVID-19, hurricanes,
locust attacks, racism,
casteism and other atrocities?

We have become part of a system that encourages police brutality
and hate speeches by politicians,
ignores criminal negligence of bureaucracies,

cheers a jingoistic media,
and dispassionately watches the apathy of justice systems.
We are anguished, Lord God!

Holy Spirit, make us, the church, realize that the solution lies in “we” and not “me”.
Remind us repeatedly that if one part suffers, then the body suffers.

Direct us to reach out to the lost, wandering,
outcast, and destitute
with the immense resources placed by the Sovereign Lord at our disposal.

Reaffirm to every Christian
that we need to live a life worthy of our calling
and that love is shown best through action.

Provide courage to the leaders in the church
to speak the truth in love to those in power
so that justice and righteousness flow across nations.

Almighty God, we look heavenwards for your kindness during these harsh times
so that the weary may find rest,
the homeless may find shelter,
the hungry may be filled,
the refugee may find acceptance,
the captives may find freedom
and that the peace that surpasses all understanding may prevail.

Finally, Lord God, help us bear with another,
carrying each others’ burdens so as to fulfill the perfect law of Christ
in this imperfect world.

May your glorious light shine forth and you receive your due honor, glory and praise.

Thank you, Lord God.
In Jesus’ matchless name we pray,
Amen.

Ravindra Raj (India), 2020.

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