

## Liturgical Resources in Response to Violence

*"God shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence" (Ps. 72:14)*

---

### The Promise of God's Reign

*The Third Song of Isaiah; Isa. 60:1–3, 18, 19*

which can be sung using #177 from [\*The Psalter – Psalms and Canticles for Singing\*](#)

**Refrain:** The Lord will be our everlasting light; \*  
and God will be our glory.

**R**

Arise, shine, for your light has come; \*  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you,  
though darkness covers the earth \*  
and dark night is over the nations. **R**  
But upon you the LORD will rise, \*  
and the glory of the LORD will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light; \*  
and rulers to the brightness of your dawn. **R**  
No longer will violence be heard in your land, \*  
nor ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will name your walls Salvation, \*  
and all your gates Praise. **R**  
No more will the sun be your light by day, \*  
nor by night will you need the brightness of the moon,  
for the LORD will be your everlasting light, \*  
and your God will be your glory. **R** [Book of Common Worship, 581]

---

### Collects to include in The Prayers of The People

*These prayers can be used along with other little prayers collected in The Prayers of The People*

O Lord, our God, victim of violence on a cross,  
look with compassion upon all involved in the shooting this week in Colorado.  
Comfort those terrorized by this horrendous event.  
Wrap your Everlasting Arms around those who mourn.  
Heal those whose wounds ooze in open fear.

Strengthen those administering your medicines of blessing—  
medical personnel, law enforcement officials, and associated staff.  
Calm all whose memories of violence are triggered by this shooting.  
Clothe the gunman with your redemption,  
and deal tenderly with his confused family and friends.  
Hear our cries of lament as we seek to understand the incomprehensible,  
and deliver us from the evil of violence in any form.  
Through Christ we pray.  
**Amen.** [tls]

Almighty God,  
you have made us and all things to serve you,  
now prepare the world for your rule.  
Come quickly to save us,  
so that wars and violence shall end,  
and your children may live in peace,  
honoring one another with justice and love.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.** [Book of Common Worship (BCW), 175]

Renew our nation in the ways of justice and peace.  
Guide those who make and administer our laws  
to build a society based on trust and respect.  
Erase prejudices that oppress;  
free us from crime and violence;  
guard our youth from the perils of drugs and materialism.  
Give all citizens a new vision of a life of harmony.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.** [BCW, 319]

O God, bring our nation and all nations  
to uphold justice and equity,  
that poverty, oppression, and violence may vanish  
and all may know peace and plenty;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all. Amen. [BCW, 694]

From earthquake and tempest;  
from drought, fire, and flood;  
from civil strife and violence;  
from war and murder;

and from dying suddenly and unprepared,  
**Good Lord, deliver us.** [BCW, 788]

O God,  
you love justice and you establish peace on earth.  
We bring before you the disunity of today's world:  
the absurd violence, and the many wars,  
which are breaking the courage of the peoples of the world;  
militarism and the armaments race,  
which are threatening life on the planet;  
human greed and injustice,  
which breed hatred and strife.  
Send your Spirit and renew the face of the earth;  
teach us to be compassionate toward the whole human family;  
strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for peace;  
lead all nations into the path of peace,  
and give us that peace which the world cannot give.

**Amen.**

[A Prayer from Zaire, BCW, 797-98]