

Worship Resources offered by the Mar Thoma delegation to the 2005 General Assembly of the National Council of Churches.

Opening Prayer

O God, you are the God of peace. Help us to make peace. Help us to have peace in our relationship with others. Give us always the forbearing and forgiving spirit. Keep us from being quick to take offence. Control both our temper and our tongue. Help us not to be quick to condemn what we do not understand, and when people think differently from us, help us to remember that they too have a right to their opinions and help us always to treat others as we would have them treat us.

Help us to do all we can to bring peace in the world. When we meet those of another race or of another color, or of another party, or of another religion, help us to treat them as your children and our brothers and sisters and not as strangers. Help us to see our nation's greatness not in invading or colonizing others, but in serving them. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Litany for World Peace

L: Remember O Lord, the peoples of the world who are divided into many nations and tongues. Deliver us from every evil that gets in the way of your saving purpose and fulfill the promise of peace on earth among men with whom you are pleased; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Amen.

L: From the curse of war and the sin of man that causes war,

P: O Lord, deliver us.

L: From the pride that turns its back on You, and from the unbelief that will not call you Lord,

P: O Lord, deliver us.

L: From national vanity that poses as patriotism; from loud mouthed boasting and blind self-worship that admits no guilt,

P: O Lord, deliver us.

L: From self-righteousness that will not compromise; and from selfishness that gains by the oppression of others;

P: O Lord, deliver us.

L: From the lust for money or power that drives men to domesticate and kill others,

P: O Lord, deliver us.

L: From trusting in the weapons of war and mistrusting and misleading the Councils of peace,

P: O Lord, deliver us.

L: From hearing, speaking and believing lies about other nations,

P: O Lord, deliver us.

L: From groundless suspicions and fears that stand in the way of reconciliation,

P: O Lord, deliver us.

L: From words and deeds that encourage discord, prejudice and hatred and from everything that prevents human family from fulfilling your promise of Shalom on earth,

P: O Lord, deliver us.

Prayer for the Nation

Where the mind is without fear, and the head is held high; where knowledge is free; where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls; where words come out of the depths of truth; where tireless striving stretches its arm towards perfection; where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit; where the mind is led forward by You into ever widening thoughts and action – Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you Creator God, for empowering each one of us with your Holy Spirit to effect change. We thank you because you will never leave us or forsake us if we put our trust in you. Even where there is suffering you are there and you have a plan for your people. Your plan is good and brings life in abundance, even in the midst of suffering. Thank you because you are the God of justice and you want to see justice on earth.

Thank you for choosing us and working through us to bring peace and justice where people are hurting. Give us the courage to do what we know is right, and to trust you to take care of things we cannot change. Thank you for reminding us that your grace is sufficient to see us through those things we cannot change. In Jesus' name, amen.

Dedication

God of unity, God of love, what we say with our lips, make strong in our hearts.

What we affirm with our minds, make vivid in our lives.

Send us your Spirit,

 To pray in us what we dare not pray;

 To claim us beyond our own claims;

 To bind us when we are tempted to go our own ways.

Lead us forward.

Lead us together.

Lead us to your will, the will of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.