



1 January 2018

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD – WORLD PEACE DAY

Year B

Let There Be Peace On Earth!

A Happy and Peaceful New Year to one and all! There is no better wish we can exchange on this day, for we need peace in our hearts, our families, our nation, and throughout the world. So many resources are misused or squandered. So many lives are destroyed by hatred and war.

But we are aware that real and lasting peace can come only if people obey God's law and if God blesses their efforts. And we know that He is ready to grant us this most precious gift at the intercession of our Blessed Mother, whom we honor today as "Mother of God." May she bring the warring factions and nations to lay aside all hatred and start working together to build a civilization of love, justice, and peace. Let this be the main intention for which we offer this Eucharist.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Greeting

P –Blessed be God who gives us a new year and calls us to be His partners in the building of the Kingdom. May His grace and peace be with you all.

All—**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –My dear brothers and sisters, as we start a new year, let us pause for a while to realize how much we need God's forgiveness for our past sins. *(Pause)*

P –For the times we have failed to appreciate the preciousness of time: Lord, have mercy!

All—**Lord, have mercy!**

P –For the times we have neglected to help our brothers

and sisters in need: Christ, have mercy!

All—**Christ, have mercy!**

P –For the times we have failed to worship and love you as you deserve: Lord, have mercy!

All—**Lord, have mercy!**

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—**Amen!**

Gloria

All—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you

alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All—**Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading

Nm 6:22-27

The beautiful "invocation" we are about to hear was used by the priests in the Temple to bless the people at the conclusion of religious services. It is surely most appropriate at the beginning of the New Year, when we observe "World Peace Day."

R – A proclamation from the Book of Numbers

The Lord said to Moses: “Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them:

“The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!”

So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 67

R – May God bless us in his mercy!

R. M. Velez

May God bless us in his mer-cy!

* **May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation.** **R.**

* **May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide.** **R.**

* **May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him!** **R.**

2nd Reading Gal 4:4-7

Jesus Christ is the point of arrival of God’s plan. He comes to us through a human mother – Mary Most Holy – thanks to whom the divine plan to save the world could be carried out “at the appointed time.”

R – A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians

**Brothers and sisters:
When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under**

the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Heb 1:1-2

**All – Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Gospel Lk 2:16-21

Today’s Gospel passage includes two events of the “Infancy Narrative”: The episode featuring Mary and the shepherds, and that of Jesus’ circumcision, the rite through which he officially became a member of the Chosen People.

P – The Lord be with you!
All – And with your spirit!

P – A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All – Glory to you, O Lord!

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, the baby was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All – Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

All – I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. *(All genuflect and pause after reciting this sentence.)*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P – Today is World Peace Day. Aware of the great need for peace throughout the world, let us implore this precious gift from God through the intercession of Mary, the Queen of Peace. Let us pray:

All – Lord, make us instruments of Your peace!

C – For the whole Church, God’s family on earth: May she ever more become an instrument of reconciliation for all mankind. Let us pray! **R.**

C – For the Holy Father and all other religious leaders: May they

succeed in their constant efforts to promote peace throughout the world. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all nations on earth, especially those ravaged by war: May they discover in their common brotherhood the ground on which to build a harmonious relationship. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For our society, characterized by strident inequalities and the pursuit of selfish interests: May all citizens grow in social awareness, respect for the rights of others, and concern for the common good. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all Filipino families, especially those whose members are no longer at peace with one another: May the grace of this season help them overcome the present difficulties. Let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (*Pause*)
Let us pray! **R.**

P –Father, set our hearts at peace with You and with one another, that we may become instruments of reconciliation and harmony in our families and communities. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
All–Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .
All–May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P –O God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfillment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion.

Through Christ our Lord.
All–Amen!

Preface of BVM I

P –The Lord be with you!

All–And with your spirit!

P –Lift up your hearts!

All–We lift them up to the Lord!

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All–It is right and just!

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, and to praise, bless, and glorify your name on the Solemnity of the Motherhood of the Blessed ever-Virgin Mary.

For by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit she conceived your Only Begotten Son, and without losing the glory of virginity, brought forth into the world the eternal Light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim:

All– Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All–When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!



All–Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All–For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All–Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P –Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All– Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(*To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.*)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Prayer after Communion

P –We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant, we pray, that it may lead us to eternal life, for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!



P –The Lord be with you.

All–And with your spirit!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. (*Pause*)
May the Lord fill you with His love and mercy!

All–Amen!

P –May the Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

All–Amen!

P –May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

All–Amen!

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All–Amen!

P –Go in peace to love and serve the Lord throughout this New Year.

All–Thanks be to God!



“Grant Us Your Peace!”

Pace is a tree of many diverse leaves, flowers, and fruits. It strikes its roots in the hearts of people and grows through the moisture of deep personal convictions, commitment, and perseverance in the face of opposition and obstacles of every sort. *Peace is brightened and strengthened by the sunshine of a sincere and universal love that refuses to bow to the destructiveness of hatred and vengefulness.*

Peace is the aspiration of all those who have not been perverted by the devil, the wrecker of all peace. It is promoted by its great champions, but it cannot succeed without the cooperation of millions, and ultimately the whole of humankind.

Peace is a fragile fruit. It is easily damaged and even destroyed by envy, selfishness, pride, lust, aggressiveness, insensitivity, and cruelty. *Peace is destroyed by sin whenever man turns against God or lifts his hand against his brethren.* God grieves immensely when He sees us, human beings, undermine and destroy our own peace.

From the beginning, peace has been God's dream and plan for the human family. His Kingdom is a Kingdom of peace. *The greatest sign of God's "peace initiative" is the incarnation of His own Son, the Eternal Word. He came as the Man of Peace – peace between God and us; peace among all humans.* When he was born, the angels wished peace to all men of goodwill. Before he left this world, his greeting was: “Peace!”

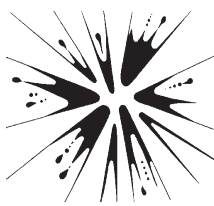
Jesus came to our war-torn world through a woman – Mary – who is the Queen of Peace. She spent her earthly days in peace-filled communion with her Son. And from that intimacy, she derived the moral strength that she needed to be always available to cooperate with God, attentive to the needs of her neighbor.

The duty to promote peace is the legacy of Jesus and his Mother to all those who proclaim to believe in God, and especially of those who profess to be disciples of Christ, the Prince of Peace. We are all called to promote peace by doing the “works of peace” – attitudes and actions that bring out the best in people; console the

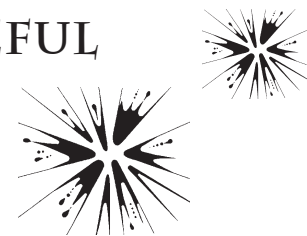
afflicted, welcome the strangers, protect the oppressed; uphold what is right and promote justice and education as basic conditions for peace to be genuine and lasting.

Sometimes there may even arise the need to defend peace against those who are trying to destroy it. It is the challenging enterprise of doing so by peaceful means that reject violence in principle and in practice. The shining examples of Jesus himself, Francis of Assisi, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Teresa of Calcutta, and John Paul II should be our greatest encouragement. *God's grace will empower us to do what our weakness would be unable to accomplish.*

Jess P. Balon



A GRACE-FILLED, PEACEFUL
& PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR
TO ONE AND ALL!!!



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