



A Lament Against Gun Violence

The Officiant begins

Let us gather in a brief silence to offer our hearts and minds to our gracious God in Prayer.

Opening Prayer (Officiant)

O God who Remembers, we hold before you all who have died from the plague of gun violence in our land. We remember those who have taken their lives with a gun, those who have died in school shootings and mass shootings, those who have died by a gun in the course of an argument or from abuse or by accident or during the commission of a crime.

We lift our voices in sorrow and frustration knowing that every life is infinitely valuable to you. Receive all who have died into the arms of your mercy, bless those who mourn with the hope of eternal life, and strengthen our hearts and our arms to bring an end to this scourge. This we pray in the name of the one who overcame the power of death, your son, Jesus Christ.ⁱ

Amen

Community Prayer (said in unison)

Healing and Holy God, we gather today in common grief for the epidemic of gun violence. Be with all those who suffer from the lasting trauma that incidents of gun violence leave in their wake. Grant us strength and courage to live in hope of a better day, our minds fixed on the doing of your will, so that we, having been delivered from fear, may live in peace. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.ⁱⁱ

Officiant Our help is in the Name of the Lord;
People The maker of heaven and earth.

Officiant

Let us confess our sins to God.

Officiant and People

Almighty God, our heavenly Father:
We have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
forgive us all our offenses;
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Psalm

Lector

Listen to the words of our forebearers

Psalm 31

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame: *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

At the end of the Psalms the response is:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Let us pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

A Final Supplication

God of love and God of compassion, your people are in distress. We rely on your presence and care to sustain those who are in pain and in a state of fear.... We pray for peace and comfort for the community. And, we pray for all whose lives are disrupted by inadequate mental health care and the scourge of gun violence. You are the God, the creator, the giver of life. Your Christ came so that we may enjoy abundant life. Your Holy Spirit breathes life into our very beings. You surely weep when life is abruptly interrupted or ended. We come to you with this petition: that you sustain us, that you are gracious unto us in such times of distress, and that you guide us as we seek to live in a way that reflects your will for a life of justice for all people and creation. Answer us in this call and hear our prayers O God.ⁱⁱⁱ

Amen.

People *Gracious God Hear Our Prayer*

Ending Collect

O God, your providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work to end gun violence and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's compassion, toil; and courage through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.