

The Solemn Collects

Deacon (or other person appointed)

Dear People of God: Our loving God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. So let us bring the needs of the whole world to the foot of the cross of Christ.

Deacon

I ask you to pray for the Church of God throughout the world, that God, the almighty, eternal One, will guide it,

For unity in witness and service

For all bishops and other ministers and the people they serve,
especially Rowan, Archbishop of Canterbury;

Katharine, our Presiding Bishop; and Tom, Bud, Gayle, and
Barbara, our bishops

For all people preparing for baptism and confirmation

That God will confirm the Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace, strengthening us to bear witness to God's love not just for humankind but for the whole of God's Creation.

(silent prayer)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Officiant

Holy God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: Send down upon your Church the Spirit of your grace, that we may truly please and serve you, and, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Deacon

I ask you to pray for all people in their vocation and ministry, and especially for the leaders of the nations

For Barack, the President of the United States

For the Congress and the Supreme Court

For delegates to the United Nations

For Deval our governor and Thomas our mayor

For those who work to protect and preserve the vitality of life on our planet

For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and that all life may co-exist in peace and concord,

(silent prayer)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Officiant

Holy God, kindle in all hearts the true love of peace and a deep desire for justice; guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth and for the care of Creation. Help us to encounter Christ in all we meet so that the earth may be filled with the knowledge of your love. **Amen.**

Deacon

I ask you to pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body, mind, or spirit;

For the hungry and homeless

For the sick, wounded, and dying

For those in loneliness, fear or anguish

For those who face temptation, addiction, doubt, or despair

For those who mourn

For prisoners and captives, and those living in places of danger

For all life harmed or broken

That God in mercy will comfort and console them, granting them knowledge of God's love, and that God will inspire in us the will and patience to minister to their needs, to cherish the sacredness of all Creation, and to dismantle systems and practices that threaten and exploit life.

(silent prayer)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Officiant

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of the one who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Deacon

I ask you to pray for the peace of Jerusalem

for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God,

for Palestinian Christians and Muslims and all who share this sacred city.

(silent prayer)

Lord in you mercy

Hear our prayer.

Officiant

Holy God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and Sarah.

Bless the people you first made your own; keep them and all who are descended from Abraham, Sarah and Hagar in the love of your Name, and in faithfulness to your covenant. **Amen.**

Deacon

I ask you to pray for all who have no faith, living lives without any sense of holiness or divine presence;

For those who have never heard words of hope or salvation
For those who have lost their faith or whose faith has lost depth and become routine
For those hardened by sin or indifference
For the contemptuous and the scornful
For those who are enemies of the faithful
For those who in the Name of God have persecuted others

That God will open their hearts to truth and love, and lead them to faith and obedience.

(silent prayer)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Officiant

Holy God, you created man and woman in your image: draw all people to yourself, that they may acknowledge you as the maker and redeemer of all; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it, that all people may know of your saving grace. **Amen.**

Deacon

Let us commit ourselves to our God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and with those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

(silent prayer)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Officiant

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: look favorably upon your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down were raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**