Prayer Service for Racial Healing in our Land

Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 5:15pm
The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Kansas City, Missouri

Bishop James Johnston, presider

open wide our hearts

The enduring call to love
While in your pew, we encourage you to wear your mask as a courtesy to those around you. Masks are required whenever you are in the aisles.

The musicians will provide the music for you. If you wish to sing along softly, please wear your mask.

Congregation Prelude

**Lead Me, Guide Me**

*Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, along the way, For if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

*Verses*

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r To help me over my weakest hour. Help me through the aid when Satan and sin oppress. I am putting darkness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness. Be my blind with out thy Light to see. Lord, just always

3. I am lost if you take your hand from me. I am all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. let me thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris M. Akers, 1922-1995
Tune: LEAD ME; Irregular with refrain; Doris M. Akers, 1922–1995; harm. by Richard Smallwood, b.1948
Prayer Service for Racial Healing in our Land

There is a balm in Gilead  African American spiritual sung by Matthew Harris

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul.

1. Sometimes I feel discouraged
   And think my work’s in vain,
   But then the Holy Spirit
   Revives my soul again.

2. Don’t ever be discouraged,
   For Jesus is your friend;
   And if you lack for knowledge,
   He’ll ne’er refuse to lend.

3. If you cannot preach like Peter,
   If you cannot pray like Paul,
   You can tell the love of Jesus
   And say, “He died for all.”

Text: Jeremiah 8:22

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

Introduction
As the USCCB has said: "Racism has rightly been called America's original sin. It remains a blot on our national life and continues to cause acts and attitudes of hatred, as recent events have made evident. The need to condemn, and combat, the evil ideologies of white supremacy and racism has become especially urgent at this time. Our efforts must be constantly led and accompanied by prayer—but they must also include concrete action." People of faith call on the Divine Healer, Christ the Lord, to heal the wounds of racism throughout our land.

Opening Prayer

Presider: Wake Me Up Lord!
Wake me up Lord, so that the evil of racism finds no home within me.
Keep watch over my heart Lord,
and remove from me any barriers to your grace,
that may oppress and hurt my brothers and sisters.
Fill my spirit Lord, so that I may give services of justice and peace.
Clear my mind Lord, and use it for your glory.
And finally, remind us Lord that you said, "blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."
We ask you this through Christ our Lord

ALL: Amen.
(Please be seated)
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 12:3-13

Brothers and sisters:
By the grace given to me I tell everyone among you
not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think,
but to think soberly,
each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned.
For as in one body we have many parts,
and all the parts do not have the same function,
so we, though many, are one Body in Christ
and individually parts of one another.
Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us,
let us exercise them:
if prophecy, in proportion to the faith;
if ministry, in ministering;
if one is a teacher, in teaching;
if one exhorts, in exhortation;
if one contributes, in generosity;
if one is over others, with diligence;
if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be sincere;
hate what is evil,
hold on to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor.
Do not grow slack in zeal,
be fervent in spirit,
serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope,
endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,
exercise hospitality.

The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God
**Reading from Scripture:** Luke 10:25-37

Deacon: The Lord be with you:

**All: And with your Spirit**


There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise, a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds, and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**Homily** *(Please be seated)*

**Music reflection:** Give Me Jesus arr. Moses Hogan

In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise,
give me Jesus

Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus

And when I am alone
Oh, and when I am alone
And when I am alone, give me Jesus

Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus
Examination of Conscience: A Look at Myself in the Mirror  *(Please stand)*

*Presider:* Conscience is the "core and sanctuary" within us where we are alone with God and hear his call to "love good and avoid evil" and "do this, shun that." Let us examine our conscience in light of the sin of racism, asking ourselves:

**Reader 1:** Have I fully loved God and fully loved my neighbor as myself?

**Reader 2:** Have I caused pain to others by my actions or my words that offended my brother or my sister?

**Reader 1:** Have I done enough to inform myself about the sin of racism, its roots, and its historical and contemporary manifestations?

**Reader 2:** Have I opened my heart to see how unequal access to economic opportunity, jobs, housing, and education on the basis of skin color, race, or ethnicity, has denied and continues to deny the equal dignity of others?

**Reader 1:** Is there a root of racism within me that blurs my vision of who my neighbor is?

**Reader 2:** Have I ever witnessed an occasion when someone "fell victim" to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism and I did or said nothing, leaving the victim to address their pain alone?

**Reader 1:** Have I ever witnessed an occasion when someone "fell victim" to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism with me inflicting the pain, acting opposite of love of God and love of neighbor?

**Reader 2:** Have I ever lifted up and aided a person who "fell victim" to personal, institutional, systematic or social racism and paid a price for extending mercy to the other? How did I react? Did my faith grow? Am I willing to grow even more in faith through my actions?

**Reader 1:** I recognize that racism manifests in my own individual thoughts, attitudes, actions, and inactions. It also manifests in social structures and unjust systems the perpetuate centuries of racial injustice.

All: For my individual actions and my participation in unjust structures, I seek forgiveness and move towards reconciliation. I look into my heart and ask for the will and the strength to help contribute to the healing of racism in my time.

**Act of Contrition**

*Presider:* Let us pray the Act of Contrition:

All: O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life.

Amen.
I Seek Forgiveness and Reconciliation to Act Justly

Reader: It is written in Ezekiel 36:26:
"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

Pope Francis reminds us that the Lord "calls each of us by our name: he knows us by name; he looks at us; he waits for us; he forgives us; he is patient with us."

Receiving God's grace and forgiveness requires a response.

Pope Francis encourages the believer:
"Whoever experiences Divine mercy is impelled to be an architect of mercy among the least and the poor."

All:  Now let us do what God requires:
"Only to do justice and to love goodness and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Closing Prayer

Presider: God of Heaven and Earth,
you created the one human family
and endowed each person with great dignity.
Aid us, we pray, in overcoming the sin of racism.
Grant us your grace in eliminating this blight from our hearts, our communities,
our social and civil institutions.
Fill our hearts with love for you and our neighbor
so that we may work with you in healing our land from racial injustice.
Through 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

Concluding remarks/Announcements

Dismissal
We have prayed and now, with changed hearts, let us move our feet to action.
Opportunities for Action
There are many opportunities to work for racial justice in your faith community, neighborhood, or the wider community. For ideas, visit usccb.org/racism including prayer resources, study materials, and ideas for action. Also see 5 Ways You Can Cultivate Peace and Work for Racial Justice.

Additional Resources
https://kcgolddome.org/cathedral-justice-and-peace/

https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism