



Walking in Peace for Lent

Set up an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, candles (unlit), a globe to represent the missions and a World Mission Rosary which can be obtained from the Missionary Childhood Office.

Leader: In today's reading, Saint Paul reminds us that our faith calls us to "wear" outward signs of how we live our life in Christ—our good actions become our Christian clothing. This Lent let us strive to live as missionary disciples so as to show others that we walk in the peace of Christ every day.

Let us pause for a moment and think about how our daily Lenten prayers, sacrifices, and acts of loving kindness help us to draw others closer to the peace of Christ.

Reader 1: *A Reading from the Letters of Saint Paul to the Colossians:*

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks Be to God.

Pause for silent reflection.

Reader 2: In our world there are many places where children are in desperate need of Christ's peace. Some are quite close to us; others are far away. We pray that we may be a sign of God's peace in our families, our classrooms, and our neighborhoods. This Lent, help us to support missionaries who are your peaceful sign, Lord, in the places to which we cannot travel ourselves.

Reader 1: Our response is:

Lord, make me a channel of your peace.

Reader 2: For the children of **Bolivia**, some of whom depend on missionaries for a daily meal eaten in peace, we pray:

All: Lord, make me a channel of your peace.

Reader 1: For the children of **The Democratic Republic of Congo**, some of whom depend on missionaries for education so that they may grow up to bring peace to their war-torn country, we pray:

All: Lord, make me a channel of your peace.

Reader 2: For the children of **Nepal**, some of whom depend on missionaries to learn how to peacefully coexist with all faiths, we pray:

All: Lord, make me a channel of your peace.

Reader 1: For the children of **The Solomon Islands**, some of whom depend on missionaries for medical attention so that they may live healthy, peaceful lives, we pray:

All: Lord, make me a channel of your peace.

Reader 2: For the children of the **Ukraine**, some of whom depend on missionaries for after school care programs so that they can spend their days in peaceful security, we pray:

All: Lord, make me a channel of your peace.

Leader: God of peace, you created us to live in your love and carry your peace to the world. Help us this Lent to be mindful of our actions. Let us remember that we are called to act with love, compassion and peace towards others so that all may know your peace in their lives. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Closing Song: Prayer of St. Francis