

February 24, 2024

PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

*AS WE APPROACH THE SECOND
ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIA'S FULL-SCALE
INVASION OF UKRAINE*

We invite individuals and communities to offer prayers for peace in Ukraine to commemorate the second anniversary of the start of this war. This prayer has been prepared by drawing on prayers from the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox spiritual traditions. Three versions of differing lengths are provided, suitable for use in a variety of worship contexts.



PRAYER I

ABBREVIATED PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

For communities who prefer a shorter version of the prayer for use in their services.

O Lord our God,

We beseech Your lovingkindness upon the state and the people of Ukraine during this time of war.

We pray for all those who are suffering physically, emotionally, psychologically, or spiritually in Ukraine and throughout the world as a result of the Russian invasion, that You would assuage their suffering and grant them comfort and healing.

We pray that You would enlighten the hearts of those who pursue violence. Grant them the peace of true repentance and wisdom to cease their sinful actions, seek forgiveness, and make amends for their actions.

We ask for peaceful existence in Ukraine that is deep and inalienable, and that she never again be subject to invasion or violence. And grant that we may all praise You, our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in the Holy Trinity.

Amen.



PRAYER II

PETITIONS FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

For communities who customarily include liturgical petitions or supplications for peace in their services.

For all those who are suffering physically, emotionally, psychologically, or spiritually in Ukraine and throughout the world as a result of the Russian invasion, that the Lord God would assuage their suffering and grant them comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.

That the hearts of those who pursue violence would be enlightened; that they be granted the peace of true repentance and wisdom to cease their sinful actions, seek forgiveness, and make amends for their actions, let us pray to the Lord.

That the Lord would grant Ukraine a peaceful existence that is deep and inalienable, and that she never again be subject to invasion or violence, let us pray to the Lord.



PRAYER III

FULL PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

For communities who prefer the complete version of the prayer.

O Lord our God, Great and Almighty, we turn to You with humility in our hearts and bow our heads low before You. We beseech Your lovingkindness upon the state and the people of Ukraine during this time of war.

Strengthen the Ukrainian people as they defend their ancestral homeland from this unjust aggression. Grant unity of mind, heart, and soul to the people, military forces, and leaders of Ukraine.

Grant wisdom to the leaders of the international community, that they might continue to offer necessary support to Ukraine.

Grant recovery and health—physical, psychological, and spiritual—to all civilians and military personnel who have suffered as a result of combat or the bombing of civilian targets, and grant eternal rest, O Lord, to all those who have given their lives in the defense of freedom and the territorial integrity of Ukraine, as well as to the civilians—the elderly, adults, youth, and children—who have been killed as a result of Russia's aggression.



PRAYER III

(CONTINUED)

Grant, O Lord, that those who are responsible for initiating, supporting, and pursuing this invasion might be granted deep and authentic repentance; that Russian troops will depart from Ukraine never to return; and that a just and sustainable peace might quickly be achieved.

We pray to You, the King of Peace and our Master: as smoke vanishes, let Ukraine's enemies vanish, and as dust is scattered before the face of the wind, let their evil desire to destroy the Ukrainian state be ruined. Frustrate, O Lord, those who oppose Your commandments and ordinances. Remind them of Your teaching: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.

Protect, O God, the Ukrainian people from all evil circumstances, grant them mutual love, unity, and concord. And grant that we may all praise You, our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in the Holy Trinity. Amen.

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Prepared and endorsed by The Canadian Council of Churches, The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, and the Peace and Reconciliation Network of the World Evangelical Alliance.



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