Grace, mercy and peace,  
from God the Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
a light no darkness can extinguish.

A prayer in the midst of war

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we cry out to you in shock and grief  
for the lives being lost and the damage being done  
in Ukraine, in Russia, and around the world.  
Wherever deadly hate is in people’s hearts,  
come and disarm the violent  
with your words of peace and acts of forgiveness.  
Wherever people are weeping  
for their shattered communities or their beloved friends,  
come and plant seeds of hope  
with your promise of resurrection life  
and a new creation.  
Come, Lord Jesus.  
Come, Lord Jesus.

We have come to pray for peace in the world, peace among Christian people, peace in our homes, schools and workplaces, peace our neighbourhood and our community. Especially today we keep in mind Ukraine and Russia, where violence and fear are all around, and where peace seems very far away.

Our Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again to bring forgiveness and peace to everyone who needs it. We trust in his love, we receive his peace, we take our next step with him as our guide.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

We bow to one another to share the peace of Christ.

We say together the Canticle, the Song of the Blessed

Blessed are the poor in spirit:  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn:  
for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek:
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful:
for mercy shall be shown to them.

Blessed are the pure in heart:
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers:
for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Psalm 62.5-12 (Together in Song 33) may be sung, or Psalm 62.1-8 (APBA page 283) may be said.

A reading from the Bible: John 1.1-5 or another suitable reading

After the reading:

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

We stand to say together the Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

For you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant:
From this day all generations will call me blessed.

You, the Almighty, have done great things for me:
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you:
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.
THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

a leader says this prayer

Almighty God, whose sovereign purpose none can make void: give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, knowing that your kingdom shall come and your will be done, to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

a litany for peace in troubled times

Holy and blessed Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.
In these days of trouble, fear and sorrow, have mercy on us.
In our despair at the violence that seems to fill the world, have mercy on us.
In the pain of lost life and shattered hopes, have mercy on us.
In our grieving for those who have died, have mercy on us.
In our compassion for all who are bereaved, have mercy on us.

From the history of violence
that corrupts every society and our own,
O Lord, deliver us.

From the greed and injustice
that divide the world into rich and poor,
O Lord, deliver us.

From the urge for revenge
that adds to the cycle of violence,
O Lord, deliver us.

From the fear that grows into hatred
for people who are different,
O Lord, deliver us.

From being too quick to attribute blame
and demand retribution,
O Lord, deliver us.

From believing ourselves safe
through anything other than your grace,
O Lord, deliver us.

From dying suddenly and unprepared,
O Lord, deliver us.

For Ukraine and Russia,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who plan and carry out acts of violence,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who seek justice and ensure the rule of law,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the victims of war and terrorism everywhere on earth,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who live in fear, and for refugees from violent regimes,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For courage to resist demonising and dehumanising others,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For wisdom in choosing the paths of peace,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For solidarity with the suffering of the dispossessed,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For generosity in sharing fairly the world’s resources,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For respect in conversation with people of other faiths, and none,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For honesty in knowing and confessing the sin in our own hearts,
Lord, hear our prayer.
For grace to change and be changed as you forgive us,  
   Lord, hear our prayer.

For rescue workers and medical teams  
treating those injured in conflict zones,  
   Lord, hear our prayer.

For aid agencies and their workers,  
responding with practical care in dangerous places,  
   Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of all the nations,  
looking for ways to work together beyond fear and suspicion,  
   Lord, hear our prayer.

For people of goodwill, responding generously  
to the needs of suffering communities,  
   Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Australians who have friends and family  
involved in areas of conflict and disaster,  
   Lord, hear our prayer.

For communities that are terrified  
by missiles, suicide bombers or death squads,  
   Lord, hear our prayer.

For the vulnerable and defenceless in conflict zones,  
for the children, the elderly, the disabled, the sick:  
   Lord, hear our prayer.

For Christ to bring all the peoples of the world  
into one flock with one shepherd,  
   we pray to you, O God.

For Christ to bring healing and comfort for those we love  
who are sick or in mourning,  
   we pray to you, O God.

For Christ to lead us into the paths of peace,  
writing the law of love on our hearts,  
   we pray to you, O God.

For Christ to bring us, with all who have died in faith,  
to a joyful resurrection,  
   we pray to you, O God.

God of all peace,  
have mercy on our broken and divided world,  
and on your people who cry out to you for healing,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  Amen.

Time may be taken in silence or while quiet music is played, for people to light a candle and place it in a sand tray. The candle stands for the prayer of our heart, which God hears without words.
THE SENDING OUT OF GOD’S PEOPLE

A hymn such as “Make me a channel of your peace” (TIS 607) may be sung

The Lord be with you.
   And also with you.

Let us go in the peace of God,
peace beyond our understanding.
Let us carry it home, a free gift from God who loves us.
   Thanks be to God.

Let us go in the peace of Jesus Christ,
peace that the world cannot give.
Let us be peacemakers, sharing what we have received.
   Thanks be to God.

Let us go in the peace of the Holy Spirit,
peace that comes from telling the truth and doing justice.
Let us speak wisely and act boldly.
   Thanks be to God.

Let us go in peace,
to forgive and heal and bless everyone we meet.
   In the name of Christ. Amen.