

Day of Peace



CST: Solidarity and the Common Home

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First Reading (Isaiah 49.3, 5-6) We hear from one of the 'Songs of the Servant' in the second section of the Book of Isaiah. It is really our song. We, too, are called to let the Lord be our strength, to know our calling to gather the scattered and to be a light for the nations so that God's Salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

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Gospel (John 1.29-34) A prophet is not someone who sees the future but someone who sees the reality before him or her and names it. Thus John the Baptist, that fiery desert preacher; sees the truth about Jesus: sees the Lamb of Sacrifice who frees us from Sin; sees also the Dove descending, sign of the presence of the Spirit, the bringer of peace.

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It is Christ who is the Light of the Nations, and he asks us to bring that light to places of shadow and darkness. Let us pray for ourselves and for the world in which we are his witnesses.

Christ, be our light.

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That Christ may open our eyes to see where the Spirit is at work in our world today, opening up new paths of peace and hope.

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For our own homes, our families, our parish community;
that the grace and peace Christ came to bring may
reign over us, so that the stranger may find welcome
and those hurting may find comfort in our company.

Christ, be our light.

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For our political leaders, that they may seek to find a shared understanding and achieve reconciliation in the face of divisions of every kind. And for our nation, that we may work to achieve a just peace across the world.

Christ, be our light.

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Father, as the Spirit descended like a dove on your Son at his baptism, so grant that the same Dove of Peace may open up paths to a just peace for all in our world today. To you we make these our prayers, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

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