

Canticle of Simeon: (prayed together) Protect us Lord, as we stay awake, watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in His peace.

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace, your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people, a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

All Pray Together: God of freedom, you create each of us as a temple of your Spirit, a beloved child made in your image, clothed in dignity and value. You came among us to bring good news to the poor, restore sight to the blind, justice to the oppressed and freedom to the captive.

Send us as you sent Moses to bring liberty to the slaves.

Send us as you sent Isaiah to speak justice to the evildoer.

Send us as you came Yourself to be light for dark places.

Send us as your disciples to build the kingdom of God here and now. Be with the children, women and men who are abused and exploited by human trafficking. Strengthen us to work on their behalf, to care for those who are victims and to help them rebuild lives of dignity and justice. Amen.

Leader: We entrust ourselves into Your hands Father as we end this day and look forward to beginning a new day tomorrow. While our eyes are closed, keep watch over all those who need your help and care tonight especially those who are being trafficked in horrific ways. When we awake in the morning allow us to continue to be your heart, hands and eyes and live compassion to Your people whom You love so much. Amen.



Night Prayer To End Human Trafficking



Call to Prayer

As we begin, let us call to mind and bear in our hearts the estimated 30 million children, women and men who are trafficked today and every day. Let us pray together in hope for their freedom and justice in the world.

Leader: God, come to my assistance.

All: Lord, make haste to help me. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia

Hymn: “Cry of the Poor” ... John Foley

*The Lord hears the cry of the poor.
Blessed be the Lord.*

Let the lowly hear and be glad:
the Lord listens to their pleas;
and to hearts broken, God is near,
who will hear the cry of the poor. **Refrain**

Psalm 10

Side 1: Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
In arrogance, the wicked persecute the poor, let
them be caught in the schemes they have devised!

Side 2: Rise up, O Lord; lift up your hand; do not forget
the oppressed. Why do the wicked renounce God,
and say in their hearts, “You will not call us to
account”?

Side 1: But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief,
that you may take it into your hands; the helpless
commit themselves to you; you have been the helper
of the orphan.

Side 2: O Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek; you
will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear
to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed,
so that those from earth may strike terror no more.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and will be
forever. Amen.

Reflection from Pope Francis

Declaration on International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

Every human being, man, woman, boy and girl, is made in God’s image. God is the love and freedom that is given in interpersonal relationships, and every human being is a free person destined to live for the good of others in equality and fraternity. Any discriminatory relationship that does not respect the fundamental conviction that others are equal is a crime. Therefore, we declare on each and every one of our creeds that modern slavery, in terms of Human Trafficking, forced labor and prostitution, and organ trafficking, is a crime against humanity. Its victims are from all

walks of life but are most frequently among the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters.

On behalf of all of them, our communities of faith are called to reject, without exception, any systematic deprivation of individual freedom for the purposes of personal or commercial exploitation; in their name, we make this declaration.”

Pause for a brief time of silence

Intercessions

For those exploited and objectified by the commercial sex industry.

Rise up, O Lord, set them free.

For those forced to become soldiers, for the children made into the tools of violence.

Rise up, O Lord, set them free.

For those forced to labor out of sight in factories, ships, mines, farm fields and private homes across the world.

Rise up, O Lord, set them free.

For the traffickers, pimps and slaveholders who perpetuate the system of indignity and degradation.

Change their hearts, move them to justice.

For governments, corporations and consumers that turn a blind eye to human trafficking.

Change their hearts, move them to justice.

For us, that we may examine how we perpetuate human slavery and what we can do to end it.

Change our hearts, move us to justice.

