

## **Peace With Justice: Band-Aids Aren't Enough!**

Amos 2:6-7a; 4:1-2; 5:7,10-12; 6:1,3-7,12b; 5:24

### **Prayer of Invocation:**

God of Justice, You saw the Pharaoh mistreating the Israelites, and You responded by calling Your servant Moses to lead them out of bondage.

Later, You sent prophets like Jeremiah, Amos, and Isaiah to stand up for Your children who had been pushed to the margins of society.

Finally, Your son Jesus proclaimed He had come to bring freedom to captives and liberty to the oppressed.

Be with us in this hour of worship as we embrace our mission to carry on in the struggle against the injustices that burden Your people! Amen!

### **Call to Worship/Invocation:**

One: Our world is overwhelmed with suffering and despair;

**Many: Loving God, focus our minds and hearts on Your Spirit of Compassion.**

One: Our world is filled with violence and hatred:

**Many: Loving God, focus our hearts and minds on Your Spirit of Peace!**

One: Our world is one of rife with greed and exploitation:

**Many: Loving God, focus our hearts and minds on Your Spirit of Justice!**

One: Lord, as we gather together this day, we proclaim Your power and love as the center of our being.

**Many: And in worship and praise, we *embrace* Your vision of Peace-Shalom, for *us* and for *all* Creation!**

### **Offering Prayer**

Generous God, we thank you for the wonderful bounty you've bestowed upon humanity.

Your gifts nourish our tired bodies, give comfort to our troubled minds and replenish our weary souls.

Accept this offering not only as a token of our appreciation for all that we have,

but also as a commitment to the ministries of the Church which work to bring economic justice to all Your children! Amen!

## **Franciscan Prayer of Blessing:**

### **North side:**

May God bless you with *discomfort* ...

at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,  
so that you may live deep within your heart.

### **South side:**

May God bless you with *anger* ...

at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,  
so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

### **North side:**

May God bless you with *tears* ...

to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war,  
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them  
and to turn their pain into joy.

### **Both sides:**

And may God bless you with enough Holy *foolishness* ...

to believe that you can make a difference in this world,  
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done! Amen!

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