



# *Prayer for Peace*

*shorter form of the Prayer of the Holy Father, October 2023*

Mary, look at us! We stand here before you.  
You are our Mother, and you know our struggles and our hurts.

Queen of Peace, you suffer with us and for us, as you see so many of your children  
suffering from the conflicts and wars that are tearing our world apart.

In this dark hour, we look to you,  
we entrust ourselves and our problems to your maternal Heart,  
which knows our anxieties and fears.  
How great was your concern when there was no place for Jesus at the inn!  
How great was your fear when you fled in haste to Egypt because Herod  
sought to kill him!  
How great was your anguish before you found him in the Temple!  
Yet, Mother, amid those trials, you showed your strength, you acted boldly:  
you trusted in God and responded to concern with tender care,  
to fear with love, to anguish with acceptance.

Now, Mother, once more take the initiative for us,  
in these times rent by conflicts and laid waste by the fire of arms.  
Turn your eyes of mercy towards our human family.

Queen of Peace, we appeal for peace!  
Touch the hearts of those imprisoned by hatred;  
convert those who fuel and foment conflict.  
Dry the tears of children – at this hour, so many are weeping!  
– be present to those who are elderly and alone;  
strengthen the wounded and the sick;  
protect those forced to leave their lands and their loved ones;  
console the crestfallen;  
awaken new hope.

Queen of all peoples, reconcile your children, seduced by evil, blinded by  
power and hate.

You, who are close to all, shorten our distances.  
You, who have compassion on everyone, teach us to care for one another.  
Mother, Queen of Peace, pour forth into our hearts God's gift of harmony

## *Amen*