

A Prayer Service for Racial Healing – Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – LCWR

Introduction

“Racism has rightly been called America's original sin. It remains a blot on our national life and continues to cause acts and attitudes of hatred, as recent events have made evident. The need to condemn, and combat, the demonic ideologies of white supremacy, neo-Nazism and racism has become especially urgent at this time. Our efforts must be constantly led and accompanied by prayer – but they must also include concrete action.” [1] People of faith call on the Divine Physician, Christ the Lord, to heal the wounds of racism throughout our land.

[1] USCCB Executive Committee statement in support of the establishment of a new Ad Hoc Committee on Racism in September of 2017

Opening Litany

God of all people and the whole of creation,

ALL: Make us into who you have created us to be.

Make us your hands, your feet, your eyes, your lips,

ALL: Your body in the world.

Spirit of Peace, reconcile us,

ALL: Connect us to yourself, to each other.

You are the source of our healing and hope,

ALL: For if one is hurt, all of us are hurt.

Clothe us, your body in the world,

ALL: With your love, mercy and grace. Amen.

Communal Reflection:

Asian and indigenous sisters and brothers are hurting. How do we, the church, hear their painful cry, and act together in solidarity? (Pause) We pray...

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Are Asians invisible? They are branded as the model minority – therefore, not expected to speak up. They cry for justice. Can anyone hear them in all they have to offer? (Pause) We pray...

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Asian and indigenous people are feared as communities. They have complex cultures and languages, so they are generally omitted. How can we, the church, offer our curiosity and respect when we encounter a multitude of gifts in diversity and uniqueness? (Pause) We pray...

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Asian children are called many names, most recently “coronavirus,” or yelled at to “go home.” When we, the church, ask, “Who is our neighbor?,” how can we truly mean it in welcoming words and actions? (Pause) We pray...

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Asian and indigenous people are used by the mainstream dominant culture to shame and put a wedge against other communities of color. Claiming our calling that all are created in God's image, how can we stand in solidarity with those being used? (Pause) We pray...

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Closing Prayer: Wake Us Up Lord

**Wake us up Lord, so that the evil of racism
finds no home within us.**

**Keep watch over our hearts Lord,
and remove from us any barriers to your grace,
that may oppress and offend our sisters and brothers.**

**Fill our spirit Lord, so that we may give
services of justice and peace.**

Clear our minds Lord, and use our minds for your glory.

**And finally, remind us Lord that you said,
“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.”**

Amen.

(Websites used as resources: USCCB; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)