

REQUIEM FOR BLACK CHILDREN OF GOD

The following service has been created by Bishop Fernand Cheri of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and adapted for broad use.

All will assemble outside in solemn silence around the processional cross.

*Everyone will be wearing masks and keeping social distance.
The prayer begins with the Sign of the Cross.*

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND LITURGICAL GREETING

**Presider: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

All: Amen

Then the Presider, extending his hands, greets the people, saying:

**Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.**

All: And with your Spirit

**Presider: As the Body of Christ, let us go into the streets
proclaiming our solidarity
with those who have died unjustly.**

The cross bearer and the presider/reader carrying the Book of the Gospels will lead the procession in silence or singing “COME BY HERE LORD (or O Freedom, or We Shall Overcome).” The processional cross

will be placed at a visible location once the group arrives at their destination.

The presider will stand next to the cross.

When the song is concluded and all have arrived at the location, the prayer continues with the Penitential Act.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Presider: **Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to confess our omissions.**

(a moment of silent reflection follows)

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
And, striking their breasts and the gong rings three times, they say:
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Presider: **May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.**

All: Amen

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray
(Silence)

**O God, author of true freedom,
whose will it is to shape all men and women
into a single people released from slavery,
and who offer us a tome of grace and blessing,
grant to your people, we pray,
that, as we receive new growth in freedom,
we may appear more clearly to the world
as the universal sacrament of salvation,
manifesting and making present
the mystery of your love for all.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.**

All: Amen

READING Isaiah 61:1

The reader goes to the podium.

Reader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**For Zion's sake I will not be silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her vindication goes forth like the dawn,
and her victory like a burning torch.**

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The reader returns to her place.

All then sing the response.

Response: *BALM IN GILEAD*

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To make the wound-ed whole,



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To heal the sin-sick soul.

Verses



1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And
2. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you
3. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, For



think my work's in vain, But then the Ho - ly
can - not pray like Paul, You can tell the love of
Je - sus is your friend; And if you lack for



Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.
Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!"
knowl - edge He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: Jeremiah 8:22, African-American spiritual
Tune: BALM IN GILEAD, Irregular; African-American spiritual; acc. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-16

The presider then proclaims the Gospel from the podium.

Deacon: **The Lord be with you**

All: And with your spirit

Deacon:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

“You are the salt of the earth.

**But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?
It is no longer good for anything,
but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.**

“You are the light of the world.

A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

**Nor do they light a lamp
and then put it under a bushel basket;
it is set on a lampstand,
where it gives light to all in the house.**

**Just so, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds,
and glorify your heavenly Father.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Reflection

A short period of silence follows the reflection.

READING OF NAMES

Presider: **Brothers and sisters,
the scars of systematic racism plague our nation,
our communities and our churches.
For too long,
too many of us stood silent or said too little
as our Black brothers and sisters
succumbed by the brutal blows
of racism's cruel injustice.**

**Let us say their names,
those who bled and died on this punishing cross
and ask forgiveness.**

*The names will be read alternating readers.
As a name is proclaimed, the gong is stroked.*

Then the people will say:

All: **Forgive us, we pray.**

Reader 1**Reader 2****Reader 3**

Rodney King	Amadou Diallo	Sean Bell
Oscar Grant	Malice Green	Abner Louima
Trayvon Martin	Freddie Gray	Nathaniel Edwards
Rekia Boyd	Rafael Cruz	Harith Augustus
Michael Brown	Kajuan Raye	Botham Jean
Laquan McDonald	Paul O’Neal	Isiah Murrietta-Golding
Tamir Rice	Alton Sterling	Antwan Rose II
Eric Garner	Philando Castile	O’Shae Terry
Sandra Bland	Terence Crutcher	Devon Bailey
Bettie Jones	Devaris “Caine” Rogers	Atatiana Jefferson
Quintonio LeGrier	Stephon Clark	Kenneth French
Walter Scott	Juan Flores	Michael Dean
Eric Harris	Marco Gomez	Bruce Carter
Tony Robinson	Eddie Lee Patterson	Genevive Dawes
Rumain Brisbon	Gus Touis	Ahmaud Arbery
Breonna Taylor	John Crawford	Aiyana Jones
George Floyd		

After all have been read, the gong is rung three times as all remain silent.

Then the presider offers the closing prayer:

CLOSING PRAYER

**Presider: O God,
forgive us for being a party to injustice**

**in the lives of these your children,
our Black sisters and brothers,
and all victims of systemic racism
in these United States.**

**Forgive us for not seeing them as coheirs to life,
liberty and the pursuit of happiness.**

**Forgive us for not hearing their cries,
“I CAN’T BREATHE” or
“HANDS UP, DON’T SHOOT.”**

**Forgive us for not lifting them up as your children,
precious in your sight.**

**Increase our strength, we pray, O Lord,
that we may drink deeply of love’s power
and everywhere promote your justice and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen

Presider: **At the Savior’s command
and formed by the Word of God, we dare to say:**

All: Our Father ...

Presider: **The Lord be with you.**

All: And with your spirit.

Presider: **May almighty God bless us, protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.**

All: Amen

Presider: **Go in peace.**

All: Thanks be to God