

Quarterly Pax Mass

June 18, 2026

5:00 Pacific / 6:00 Mountain / 7:00 Central / 8:00 PM Eastern



Readings are inclusive language versions of the readings for today.
Tonight's liturgy will be using the [Eucharist for Gospel Nonviolence](#) from the Association of US Catholic Priests' Nonviolence Working Group.

Presider: Fr. Gregory Chisholm, SJ

***Gun Violence Awareness • Juneteenth
PRIDE • Sacred Heart of Jesus • Torture Awareness***

Welcome: *Judy Coode, Pax Christi USA Communications Director*

+ *We celebrate this Mass in memory of all Pax Christi members and friends who have died in the past couple of months, especially for Sr. Alice Zachmann, who for many years worked with the Guatemala Human Rights Commission; Rev. Bernie Tickerhott, TOR who helped start the Pax Christi Pittsburgh chapter; and Sr. Marlene Bertke, a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie and a former staff member of Pax Christi USA.*

Opening song: [Lift Every Voice and Sing](#) - James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson

Opening prayer: Fr. Chisholm

*God of life, you continue to create your universe
with wondrous beauty and rich diversity.
Send your Spirit of unity more deeply into our lives, so
that we will not turn our diversity into division,
or our fear into hatred.
May your Risen Son, the Servant of Nonviolent Love,
breathe his peace into our minds and hearts.
We ask this in his name,
who lives forever and ever. Amen.*

First reading

Reader: Sara Bauman

Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC)

Sirach 48:1-14

Like a fire there appeared the prophet Elijah
whose words were as a flaming furnace.
Their staff of bread he shattered,
in his zeal he reduced them to straits;
By the Lord's word he shut up the heavens

and three times brought down fire.
 How awesome are you, Elijah, in your wondrous deeds!
 Whose glory is equal to yours?
 You brought a dead man back to life
 from the nether world, by the will of the LORD.
 You sent kings down to destruction,
 and easily broke their power into pieces.
 You brought down nobles, from their beds of sickness.
 You heard threats at Sinai,
 at Horeb avenging judgments.
 You anointed kings who should inflict vengeance,
 and a prophet as your successor.
 You were taken aloft in a whirlwind of fire,
 in a chariot with fiery horses.
 You were destined, it is written, in time to come
 to put an end to wrath before the day of the LORD,
 To turn back the hearts of fathers toward their sons,
 and to re-establish the tribes of Jacob.
 Blessed is he who shall have seen you
 And who falls asleep in your friendship.
 For we live only in our life,
 but after death our name will not be such.
 O Elijah, enveloped in the whirlwind!
 Then Elisha, filled with the twofold portion of his spirit,
 wrought many marvels by his mere word.
 During his lifetime he feared no one,
 nor was any person able to intimidate his will.
 Nothing was beyond his power;
 beneath him flesh was brought back into life.
 In life he performed wonders,
 and after death, marvelous deeds.

The word of God.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial psalm
Reader: TBD

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 97:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7

R. (12a) Rejoice in the Lord, you just!
 The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
 let the many isles be glad.
 Clouds and darkness are round about him,
 justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.
R. Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes round about.
His lightnings illumine the world;
the earth sees and trembles.

R. Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.

R. Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

All who worship graven things are put to shame,
who glory in the things of nought;
all gods are prostrate before him.

R. Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

Alleluia: Fr. Chisholm

You have received a spirit of adoption as children through which we cry: Abba!

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel, proclaimed by Fr. Chisholm

Matthew 6:7-15

Jesus said to his disciples: “And when you pray, don’t babble like the Gentiles. They think God will hear them if they use a lot of words. Don’t imitate them. Your God knows what you need before you ask it.

“This is how you are to pray: ‘Abba God in heaven, hallowed be your name! May your reign come, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: give us today the bread of Tomorrow. And forgive us our debts, as we hereby forgive those who are indebted to us. Don’t put us through the test, but free us from evil.’

“If you forgive the faults of others, Abba God will forgive you yours. If you don’t forgive others, neither will Abba God forgive you.”

The Gospel of our God,

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily: Fr. Chisholm



PLEASE TYPE YOUR INTENTIONS IN THE CHAT

Prayers of the faithful

Reader: Pax Christi USA Staff TBD

Our response is: God of peace, hear our prayer.

For Pope Leo XIV and other leaders of our Church, and that we, guided by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, put into action Pope Leo's words to us, that we may make our "local communities into 'houses of peace' where [we] learn how to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practiced and forgiveness is cherished." We pray: **God of peace, hear our prayer.**

We pray for an end to gun violence, for a healing of a trust based in fear and false security of a gun culture. We pray in remembrance of the countless lives lost to gun violence and the many families of victims and survivors. We pray for those who perpetrate acts of violence with guns, that they may experience conversion of heart, repentance, and restoration of trust and relationships broken by their actions. May we all ultimately find hope in an unarmed and disarming future of peace. We pray: **God of peace, hear our prayers.** (*Adapted from Nuns Against Gun Violence Prayer Service, 2025*)

We pray for the abolition of torture and solidarity with survivors. May organizations like the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) continue to empower survivors to share their stories to educate the public and lawmakers. We pray: **God of peace, hear our prayer.**

In this month of the Sacred Heart, we pray that we never stop expanding the borders of love and acceptance for LGBTQ, brown, black, and white bodies of all abilities. Soften hearts to welcome people of all gender identities in all of the bodies in which they inhabit. Teach us to learn and relearn how to love, with humility, excitement, and joy. We pray: **God of peace, hear our prayer.**

We pray in support for the many grassroots churches and immigrant communities who are promoting justice amid the ICE raids and ongoing violence and escalation. Undaunted by the mounting tensions, insecurity, and chaos these peacemakers persist in conducting nonviolent actions, prayer vigils, and demonstrations in solidarity with immigrant communities across the country. We pray: **God of peace, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are suffering around the world in areas of violent conflict, in Iran, Palestine, Israel, Yemen, Ukraine, in Sudan and South Sudan, in Haiti, Philippines, Korea, and in too many other locations. For an end to war and preparations for war, we pray: **God of peace, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our political and religious leaders, that they will strive to overcome systemic injustice by working for fair education, adequate housing, equal opportunities for employment, and abolishing nuclear weapons. We pray: **God of peace, hear our prayer.**

For these and all the intentions on our hearts tonight, of all those present at this Pax Mass, let us pray to God.

All: God of peace, hear our prayer.



Eucharist of Gospel Nonviolence, Eucharistic Prayer II

Prayer over the offerings

C. The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

C. Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

C. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Preface

God our Father and Mother, loving Source and Destiny of all life, we praise you and thank you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The nonviolent Christ is your faithful servant, our brother, who brings peace to our broken world through his new commandment of love and his confrontation with the powers of evil and injustice.

Through Christ's self-emptying love, our swords are transformed into plowshares, our hostility into reconciliation, our alienation into community, and our hatred into forgiveness of our enemies.

Your Spirit changes our hearts: enemies begin to speak to one another, those who were estranged join hands in friendship, and nations seek the way of peace together.

The Spirit of the nonviolent Christ is at work when understanding puts an end to strife, when hatred is overcome by mercy, and revenge gives way to forgiveness.

For the gift of this transforming love, we never cease to thank and praise you.

We join with all the choirs of heaven and all the earth as we sing forever to your glory:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, compassionate and faithful God.

We do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

You have no need of our praise, yet our desire to thank you is itself your gift to us.

With loving tenderness, you have gathered your people and filled us with a longing for peace that would last and for justice that would never fail. Through countless generations, your people hungered for the bread of freedom. From them, you raised up Jesus, the Living Bread, in whom ancient hungers were satisfied.

Jesus is the Word that brings liberation from injustice and violence, the hand you stretch out to the sick, the poor, and the oppressed, the way that leads to peace.

On the night before he went forth to his life-giving death, rejecting violence, loving his enemies, and praying for his persecutors, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: 'Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.'

With a love stronger than death, Jesus opened his arms wide and surrendered his Spirit in suffering service.

Epiclesis

Loving God, send your Holy Spirit to heal our lives and to make holy these gifts of bread and wine, that they may become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

While he was at supper on the night before he died for us, he took bread in his hands and gave you thanks and praise. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said: Take this, all of you, and eat it; this is my body which will be given up for you.

At the end of the meal, he took the cup. Again, he praised you for your goodness, gave the cup to his disciples and said: Take this, all of you, and drink from it; this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

C. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith

All: Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Savior of the World

Anamnesis, offering, and intercessions

Loving God, with gratitude we call to mind the passion of your Son, Jesus. We remember his suffering at the hands of a broken humanity filled with the spirit of violence and enmity. We remember that He endured his passion with a love free of retaliation, revenge, and retribution. We recall his execution on the cross, but we also recall that He died loving his enemies and praying for his persecutors.

We celebrate that you raised him on the third day as your vindication of His love for all his brothers and sisters in the human community and for all of creation.

Therefore, with grateful hearts we offer to you the gift that you have given us, the Bread of life and the Cup of salvation. We ask you to accept us, together with your Son. Fill us with his Spirit through our sharing in this meal. May his Spirit of peace take away all that divides us.

And may this same Holy Spirit keep us always in communion with Leo, our pope, our bishops, together with all our brothers and sisters, living and deceased.

Loving God, make your Church throughout the world a sign of unity and an instrument of your peace.

You have gathered us here around the table of your Son, in fellowship with the Virgin Mary, mother of God, Joseph her spouse, and all the martyrs and saints. In that new creation, where the fullness of your peace will be revealed, gather people of every race, language, religion, and way of life to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus Christ the Lord.

Doxology

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, forever and ever.

All: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace – *We invite you to extend a sign of peace through the screen to all gathered!*

Lamb of God

Communion hymn: [Day of Peace](#) - Janét Sullivan Whitaker

Refrain:

*I know there will be a day of peace
For this, let us all work and pray.*

Prayer after Communion

Loving and generous God, you have gathered us at this table of your remembrance. We thank you for nourishing your pilgrim community with the Bread of Peace and the Cup of Blessing. May this sacred food sustain our commitment to overcome fear with trust, injury with pardon, and hatred with nonviolent love. We ask this through the Risen Christ who lives forever. Amen.

Final blessing: Fr. Chisholm

Announcements and goodwill offering: Daniel Francis, Director of Development

- Upcoming events
- We welcome donations via the [donation page on our website](#).

Closing song: [Give Us Peace](#) - Leon Roberts

Refrain:

Give us peace,

Give us love,

Give us joy,

Give us hope for evermore.

Give us peace,

Give us love,

Give us joy,

Give us hope for evermore.

Today, tomorrow, and always

[Unidos](#) - Santiago Fernandez and Jesse Manibusan

Refrain:

United in the Lord, unidos en su amor;

Though many, we are one, un cuerpo del Señor.

United in one voice, unidos en la fe,

Together we rejoice, en Cristo, nuestro rey.