

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL

PRAYER VIGIL GUIDE



“Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.” -Mother Theresa

“Prayer lays hold of God’s plan and becomes the link between His will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit’s prayer.” -Elisabeth Elliot

“Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers.” -J. Sidlow Baxter

“The greatest thing anyone can do for God and man is pray. It is not the only thing; but it is the chief thing. The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time to pray.” -S.D. Gordon

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” -2 Chronicles 7:14

“America you are beautiful...and blessed...The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless. If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life.” -Pope John Paul II



Dear Pro-Life Christians,

You might be asking yourself “Why is this inter-denominational prayer guide necessary?” People know how to pray, right? In fact, one of the most common concerns in the pro-life community of faith is lack of unity.

Indeed there exists varying degrees of theological differences between Christians – Protestants, Catholics, Orthodox, Evangelicals, etc. But should theological disagreements prevent conscientious people of faith from boldly speaking out against preborn genocide?

When people unite and put aside their differences to oppose injustice, things change.

What of the Christians who valiantly resisted the Holocaust; should they not have joined forces to hide Jews, voice their opposition to the Nazi propaganda or pray for the end of the mass killings simply because of their religious differences? Abolitionists of every religious persuasion labored to outlaw slavery. The struggle for civil rights brought together people of all races, creeds and backgrounds.

While there are appropriate times to politely and lovingly discuss our diverse religious views, in front of an abortion facility, pleading with God to end abortion is NOT the time. It is a time for all people to ask for God’s mercy and forgiveness and in one voice to cry out, “Enough bloodshed! End preborn killing!”

Use this as a guide; change it; adapt it to your needs. Students for Life of America created this *Inter-Denominational Prayer Vigil Guide* to serve as a helpful tool in our quest to abolish abortion.

For Life,

Kristan Hawkins

Executive Director
Students for Life of America

PREPARATION

Prayer

God in Heaven, author of Life, we know that at this very moment precious preborn human lives are in danger. They are on the verge of death as they grow in their mother's wombs. We are physically present at the scene of these killings to be a witness of your love for every person – even the tiny baby you knit together in his mother's womb. We pray today that our heartfelt prayers, our pleas will be heard, and that your Holy Spirit would rouse the hearts of the men and women involved in the killings inside this facility.



We pray that the abortionist about to become an executioner would stop and flee from the killing center- never to return. We ask that you would turn the hearts of the mothers and fathers inside the abortion facilities towards you and that they would overflow with love towards their precious preborn children.

Quote

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”
-*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Song

MY HOPE IS BUILT

My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD

In heavenly armor we'll enter the land. The battle belongs to the Lord. No weapon that's fashioned against us shall stand. The battle belongs to the Lord. *Chorus:* We sing glory and honor, power and strength to the Lord (repeat). The power of darkness comes in like a flood. The battle belongs to the Lord. He's raised up a standard, the power of His blood. The battle belongs to the Lord. When your enemy presses in hard do not fear. The battle belongs to the Lord. Take courage my friend, your redemption is near. The battle belongs to the Lord.

Scripture

Psalms 19:7-10, “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.”

Proverbs 31:8-9, “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

REPENTANCE

Prayer

Lord God, we come humbly before you in repentance for our sins and the sins of our nation. We ask for your forgiveness for our silence, for our apathy, and for our indifference. Your blood can cover a multitude of sins; please forgive our nation and cleanse it from unrighteousness. We need your Divine Mercy. We cry out in utter sorrow at the unthinkable stain abortion has left and continues to leave on our nation.

First, forgive those who have turned away and ignored the plight of the widow, the fatherless, the poor, and the needy. Forgive us for being silent while babies are killed and families scarred. Lord, cause every abortionist who has ever ended the life of a precious human child to cry out to you in repentance. Turn the hearts of abortion advocates, escorts and pro-abortion politicians toward you and away from child-killing. Forgive every mother and father who has entered an abortion facility with child and left behind a dead child. Forgive every boyfriend, husband, parent, grandparent, counselor, clergy or friend who pressured a mother to end the life of her child or drove her to do so. You are the God of the universe. We know you can do miraculous things. Forgive us and heal our nation.

Quote

“I have come to the conclusion that none of us in our generation feels as guilty about sin as we should or as our forefathers did” -Francis Schaeffer

Song

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found; was blind, but now I see. 'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear. And Grace, my fears relieved. How precious did that Grace appear the hour I first believed. Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; 'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far and Grace will lead me home. The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures. When we've been here ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun. We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

Scripture

Psalm 25:1-11, “In you, O Lord my God, I place my trust. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good; O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant. For the sake of your name, O Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.”



REMEMBRANCE

Prayer

Dear Lord, we pray for our preborn brothers and sisters who are scheduled to die today. We pray for all those families regretting their actions and mourning for their lost children. While many deny the humanity of the millions of preborn children destroyed by abortion, we do not forget them. In their memory, we continue to fight the injustice.



Quote

“The moment we begin to fear the opinions of others and hesitate to tell the truth that is in us, and from motives of policy are silent when we should speak, the divine floods of light and life no longer flow into our souls.”

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Song

YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH

Great is your faithfulness, O God. You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart. You lead us by still waters into mercy. And nothing can keep us apart. *Chorus:* So, remember your people, remember your children, remember your promise, O God. Your grace is enough. Your grace is enough. Your grace is enough for me. Great is your love and justice, God of Jacob. You use the weak to lead the strong. You lead us in the song of your salvation and all your people sing along. *Chorus (3x).* Heaven reaches out to us, your grace is enough for me. God I sing your grace is enough. I'm covered in your love. Your grace is enough for me, for me; It's enough for me.

Scripture

Isaiah 49:15-16, “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast, and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.”

Psalms 9:12, “For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not ignore the cry of the afflicted.”

Isaiah 42:3-4, “He will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not be disheartened or crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for his law.”

Revelation 6:9-10, “When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain. They called out in a loud voice, ‘How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?’”

Psalms 10:12-15, 17-18, “Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless. Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, ‘He won't call me to account’? But you, O God, do see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider it to take it in hand. The victim commits himself to you; you are the helper of the fatherless. Break the arm of the wicked and evil man; call him to account for his wickedness that would not be found out. You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted, you encourage them and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.”

PETITION

Prayer

Lord, we know you hear the cries of the 50 million babies who've died. This genocide that ravages our nation with tears, grief, bloodshed, pain and sorrow must end. How long? How long until the world hears the cries of preborn children? How long until the world sees the truth? Open their eyes, we pray. Open their ears. Let them not ignore the cries of the children any longer. Let it haunt all the people of our nation and the world until we all say in one voice, "enough!" Lord, show us how to respond. Let us not feel helpless to stop the killing. Give us the strength to endure in our fight to restore preborn human rights. Bestow your blessing, courage and peace on pregnant mothers contemplating abortion, so that they will choose life.



“O God, early in the morning I cry to you. Help me to pray and gather my thoughts to you, I cannot do it alone. In me it is dark, but with you there is light; I am lonely, but you do not desert me; My courage fails me, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace; in me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience; I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me. Father in Heaven praise and thanks be to you for the night.” -*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Quote

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. And where there is sadness, joy. Lord, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console. To be understood, as to understand. To be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.” -*Prayer for Peace*, St. Francis of Assisi

Song

MY SAVIOR, MY GOD

I am not skilled to understand, what God has willed, what God has planned. I only know at His right hand, stands one who is my Savior. I take Him at His word and deed; Christ died to save me; this I read. And in my heart I find a need, Of Him to be my savior. That He would leave His place on high, and come for sinful man to die. You count it strange, so once did I; Before I knew my Savior. *Chorus:* My Savior loves, My Savior lives. My Savior's always there for me. My God: He was, my God: He is; My God is always gonna be. Yes, living, dying, let me bring, my strength, my solace from this spring; That He who lives to be my King, once died to be my Savior. That He would leave His place on high, and come for sinful man to die. You count it strange, so once did I, before I knew my Savior. *Chorus.*

Scripture

Matthew 6:9-13, “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

“Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” -Psalm 82:3-4

PRAISE

Prayer

Lord, we praise you with our lives, our lips and our hearts. Our very existence is a gift from you, and we offer our lives to be used as you see fit. You reign on high. You are the great creator and sustainer of life. Accept our praise, prayers and petitions to you as we humbly request your justice and mercy. You came down as a lowly preborn child, and we praise you for the gift of Jesus Christ. We know you can end abortion in our city, in our state, in our nation and in the world.



Quote

“My God, glorious Father, transform this ground into fertile earth, so your seeds may not fall in vain. Let the longing grow for you the creator that they so often do not want to see.” –*Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*

Song

LORD I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH

Lord, I lift your name on high. Lord, I love to sing your praises. I'm so glad you are in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heaven to earth, to show the way; from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord I lift your name on high. (Repeat)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity! Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Scripture

Psalms 139:13-16, “For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

Psalms 127:3-4, “Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children, a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one’s youth.”

Luke 1:41-44, “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, ‘Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.’”