

# The National Memorial for the Preborn and their Mothers and Fathers

## PROCESSIONAL: NATIONAL HYMN

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies  
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast,  
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide and Stay,  
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,  
Lead us from night to never ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

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## Lighting of the Candle

**(1)** We now light the Life Candle, remembering the innocent lives lost and the hope of the reconciliation and healing found in the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

**(2)** Opening prayer - Spanish -- *Fr. Victor Salomon*

**(3)** Opening prayer -- *Archbishop Bates*

Almighty Father, we gather here today in repentance, in resolve, and in rejoicing.

We gather in repentance, because we, Your people, could long ago have ended child-killing in this nation.

We gather today, Lord, in resolve, to reach our goal, not just to *fight* abortion, but to *end it*,

And to challenge public servants  
who fail to serve the public who are yet unborn.

Finally, Lord, we gather today in rejoicing.

We rejoice that You have conquered the power of death,

And have called us to spread the victory of life through our pro-life commitment.

Bless this gathering today, to the honor and glory of Your Name, and bless this movement for life.

We pray in the saving Name of the Author of Life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Psalm of Repentance**

*-- Please be seated --*

*The Congregation will be led in readings, prayers, and litanies of personal and national repentance.*

## **Psalm 51**

**(4)** Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

**(5)** <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are proved right when you speak  
and justified when you judge.

**(6)** <sup>5</sup>Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup>Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;  
you teach me wisdom  
in the inmost place.

**(7)** <sup>7</sup>Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.

**(8)** <sup>10</sup>Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me from your presence

or take your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation

and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

*Litany of Repentance*

*Response: **Have mercy on us!***

**(9)** God the Father, Creator of the world,

**R. *Have mercy on us!***

God the Son, through whom all things were made,  
God the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life,  
Lord Jesus, the Beginning and the End,  
Lord Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,  
Lord Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life,  
Lord Jesus, Eternal Word of Life,  
Lord Jesus, living in the womb of the Virgin Mary,  
Lord Jesus, Lover of the poor and weak,  
Lord Jesus, Defender of the helpless,  
Lord Jesus, Bread of Life,

**(10)** For every sin against life,  
For the sin of abortion,  
For the daily killing of innocent babies,  
For the bloodshed throughout our land,  
For the silent screams of Your children,  
For the killing of Your future disciples,  
For the exploitation of women by abortion,  
For the silence of Your people,  
For the apathy of Your people,  
For the co-operation of Your people in this tragedy,

**(11)** -- *Please stand* --

***Prayer of the Congregation for Repentance (together):***

Father and Lord of Life, we stand in your presence today, not because we presume to approach you on our own, but because you have called us.

You have sent us your Spirit, and by that Spirit we have been made even more aware of our sins. We are aware of so many ways we have offended you by what we have done and by what we have failed to do.

Therefore, Lord God, we repent once again of all our sins. We seek to be reconciled with you and with all our brothers and sisters.

We also repent as citizens who share responsibility for our nation.

We stand before you today, forty-one years after our government abandoned its responsibility to children in the womb.

Today, we repent of any way in which we have abandoned our own responsibility to these youngest of our brothers and sisters.

May the blood of your Son Jesus, the only mediator between God and the human family, cleanse us from all sin.

Through him and his Saving Passion, Death, and Resurrection, fill us with new life, new strength, and a new sharing in the life of your Spirit.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**(12) The Sign of Peace**

*The exchange of the sign of peace recalls our Lord's words that if our brother has anything against us, we should first be reconciled, and then approach the Lord. Extending a sign of peace to people around us symbolizes our readiness to reconcile with all humanity, whether born or unborn, and whether friends or enemies.*

**Let us offer one another a sign of peace.**

**-- Please be seated --**

## Reading of God's Word

### (13) *A Reading from the Book of Revelation*

#### *Revelation 4:6-11*

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. <sup>7</sup> The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup> Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.”

<sup>9</sup> Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

<sup>11</sup> “You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they were created  
and have their being.”

## **The Word of the Lord**

*Responsive Reading (Psalm 139:13-17)*

**(14) Leader:** For You have formed my inward parts; You have covered me in my mother's womb.

**People:** I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

**(15) Leader:** My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

**People:** Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

**(16) Leader:** How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**People:** As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**(17) A Reading from the Book of Genesis**

**(Gen 4:1-11)**

Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." <sup>2</sup> Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. <sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

<sup>8</sup> Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

<sup>10</sup>The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.

<sup>11</sup>Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.

## The Word of the Lord

### Psalm 103

**(18)** *Our response to the Psalm is: Lord, send your Spirit and heal our land.*

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul;

all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

<sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul,

and forget not all his benefits—

*Response: Lord, send your Spirit and heal our land.*

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins

and heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit

and crowns you with love and compassion,

*Response: Lord, send your Spirit and heal our land.*

**(19)** <sup>8</sup>The LORD is compassionate and gracious,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

<sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve

or repay us according to our iniquities.

*Response: Lord, send your Spirit and heal our land.*

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is his love for those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

*Response: Lord, send your Spirit and heal our land.*

**(20)** <sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion on his children,

so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

<sup>14</sup> for he knows how we are formed,

he remembers that we are dust.

*Response: Lord, send your Spirit and heal our land.*

<sup>17</sup> But from everlasting to everlasting

the LORD's love is with those who fear him,

and his righteousness with their children's children—

<sup>18</sup> with those who keep his covenant

and remember to obey his precepts.

*Response: Lord, send your Spirit and heal our land.*

-- *Please stand* --

**(21)** *Gospel Reading – Luke 10:25-37*

### **A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke**

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

<sup>27</sup> He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

<sup>28</sup> “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

### **HYMN OF LIFE**

O Lord the Giver of all life  
Whose ways are ever just,  
Your people lift their hearts to You  
In praise and prayer and trust.

Protect the lives of those unborn  
May laws reflect Your Will;  
Give us the strength to work for Life  
That all would cease to kill.

Help us to know Your Will for us  
Give courage in our fight.  
Dismiss our doubts; renew our hearts  
To struggle for what's right.

O Mother of the Crucified  
Who bore the Lord of Life  
For ev'ry mother intercede  
Be with us in our strife.

Lord Christ, to whom each soul is dear,  
For Whom each Child has worth,  
Receive Your children who have died  
Before their time of birth.

Blest Trinity, O living God  
To You our prayers ascend;  
Bring all at last to dwell with You  
Where life shall never end.

*(Text: © Calvert Shenk; Music: St Anne, William Croft, 1678-1727)*

**-- Please be seated --**

**Sermon: *Where is your Brother?***

*Rev. Frank A. Pavone  
National Director, Priests for Life  
President, National Pro-life Religious Council  
National Pastoral Director, Rachel's Vineyard and Silent No More Awareness Campaign*

-- Please stand --

### ***Time of Intercession***

#### *Prayers for the Preborn*

**(22)** Let us pray now, dear brothers and sisters, for our first neighbors, our youngest brothers and sisters, the children yet in their mothers' womb.

Our response will be, ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For our pre-born brothers and sisters killed by abortion, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our pre-born brothers and sisters threatened by abortion,

For our brothers and sisters who have survived abortion,

For mothers who have had abortions,

For mothers tempted to have abortions,

For mothers pressured to have abortions,

For mothers who have refused to have abortions,

**(23)** For the fathers of aborted babies,

For the families of aborted babies,

For the families of those tempted to have abortions

For abortionists,

For all who assist and cooperate in abortions,

For doctors and nurses, that they may nurture life,

For government leaders, that they may defend life,

For the clergy, that they may speak up for life,

For the pro-life movement,

For those who speak, write, and work to end abortion,

For those who help provide alternatives to abortion...

For those who promote adoption,

For national and local pro-life groups,

For unity in the pro-life movement,

**(24)** For courage and perseverance in pro-life work,

For those who suffer ridicule and rejection for their stand for life,

For those imprisoned for defending life,

For those who have been injured and mistreated for defending life,

For legal professionals,

For courts, judges, and police officers,

For educators and media professionals,

**(25)** In thanksgiving for the babies saved from abortion,  
In thanksgiving for the mothers saved and healed from abortion,  
In thanksgiving for the former abortion providers who have become pro-life,  
In thanksgiving for all those who take a stand against abortion,  
In thanksgiving for the call to be part of the pro-life movement,

**(26)** Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have created all things through Your Son Jesus Christ. He trampled the power of death by His Paschal Mystery. May all who acknowledge You promote the sacredness of life and always serve You faithfully, through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**(27)** *Prayer for their Mothers*

Lord, your word speaks to us of the tender love with which you give life and nurture your people.

We praise you for so wondrously reflecting your love to us through the gift of motherhood.

We pray today for all mothers.

Make them aware of the sublime beauty of their vocation,

And of your grace that is always ready to sustain them.

Bless in a special way those mothers who are afraid to be mothers, especially those who are tempted to commit the violence of abortion.

Lord, through the compassion of your people, reach them with your grace, that they may trust in your Providence and welcome the life that is already within them.

We pray in Jesus' name.

**(28)** *Prayers for their Fathers*

Lord, your word speaks to us of the loving strength with which you protect and provide for your people.

We praise you for so wondrously reflecting your care for us through the gift of fatherhood.

We pray today for all fathers.

Make them aware of how their vocation reflects you, the source of all fatherhood,

And of your grace that is always ready to sustain them.

Bless in a special way those fathers who are afraid to be fathers, especially those who are tempted to commit the violence of abortion.

Lord, through the example of other fathers, reach them with your grace that they may draw strength from you to protect the life that they have helped conceive.

We pray in Jesus' name.

**(29)** *Prayers for our Nation*

God and Father of all,

You govern the universe from one end to the other.

All times and seasons obey your law,

And every creature is subject to you.

Your Son Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords,

And we acknowledge him today as Ruler of the kings of the earth.

In his powerful name, bless the United States of America -- a nation formed not by geography, but by principles,

Starting with the truth that our rights come from you, O God, rather than from government,

And that without obedience to You, we cannot find true liberty.

Lord, protect our nation,

Not only from physical attacks,

But from moral attacks.

Deliver us from evil,

Not only in the form of earthquakes, floods, and storms,  
But especially in the form of false gospels  
That distort your plan for marriage and the family,  
That assault religious freedom with unjust mandates,  
And that turn the violent destruction of unborn babies into a constitutionally protected choice.  
Give to us, your people, the grace to influence the course our nation takes.  
Use us to return our nation to its founding principles.  
May we, as faithful citizens of heaven,  
Always live as faithful citizens on earth.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*Prayer for our Nation's Leaders*

**(30)** Lord, your word commands us to pray for all those in authority, that we may live our lives in peace. Hear us as we beg your grace for all in public office.

We intercede today for the President of the United States. Lord God, guide President Obama on right paths. Give to him the grace to see your Word and your will clearly, and the courage to make those changes necessary for the proper governance of this nation. For this we pray, **Lord, bless our nation.**

**(31)** We intercede today for the Presidential Administration. Lord God, give to the men and women who staff the various agencies of the Executive branch of government the grace they need to pursue the ways of justice and bear witness to you in all they say and do. For this we pray, **Lord, bless our nation.**

**(32)** We intercede today for the Congress of the United States. Lord God, grant us Representatives and Senators who will truly represent the values and convictions of the

American people, and who care more about righteousness than popularity, more about gaining Divine favor than human favor. For this we pray, **Lord, bless our nation.**

**(33)** We intercede today for the Supreme Court of the United States. Lord God, You alone judge the world and all who live in it. Give to those men and women chosen for the Supreme Court the gifts of humility, wisdom, and prudence. Guide by your Spirit the judgments they are asked to make, and restrain their hands from all evil. For this we pray, **Lord, bless our nation.**

**(34)** We intercede today for the federal courts of the United States. Lord God, without you, we can neither know nor do what is good. Grant that those who serve in our federal courts may seek what is right and just, and hold fast to it when it is found. For this we pray, **Lord, bless our nation.**

**(35)** We intercede today for the Governors of the United States. Lord God, you have entrusted these men and women with a sacred stewardship. May they pursue the good of the people of the individual states they serve, and have the courage to do what is right even if it brings them conflict and criticism. For this we pray, **Lord, bless our nation.**

**(36)** We intercede today for the state legislators of the United States. Lord God, inspire them to take bold action to advance the protection of unborn children and their mothers and fathers from the harmful and deceitful actions of the abortion industry. For this we pray, **Lord, bless our nation.**

**(37)** We intercede today for the state courts of the United States. Lord God, move your hand across this nation and guide us, that every decision that is made may lead us in your ways of truth and life. For this we pray, **Lord, bless our nation.**

*Prayer for Unity in the Body of Christ*

*Mindful of the fact that January 18-25 is the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, and that the pro-life movement is our nation's premier expression of Christians working together for human rights, a prayer is offered at this point for the unity of Christians.*

**(38) Dear brothers and sisters, we are in the midst today of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In the pro-life cause, in the march today, and in this prayer service now, we see a marvelous expression of the Body of Christ coming together to stand for the rights of our youngest neighbors.**

**With longing for the day when all harmful division will end and Christ's followers may be one, let us now pray together for the gift of unity.**

***Prayer for Unity (recited together):***

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before His passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, even as You and He are one: Grant that Your Church be bound together in love and obedience to You. Unite us as one body by Your one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom You sent, Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**(41) Let us pray.**

Lord God,  
We thank you for our salvation in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for the call he gives us –  
Not a call to sit in a corner cowering in fear over our enemies,  
Mystified about how to overcome the Culture of Death,  
Despondent because of our sins,  
Or worried about the perceived political strength of our opponents.

**(42) Rather, it is a call to stand victorious in the light of the Resurrection  
And to proclaim to the Culture of Death:  
“You have been conquered!  
You have no place here,  
No power to defeat the forces of truth and goodness!”**

**(43) Yes, Lord, we stand in that light  
And we are filled with joy –  
Not a superficial joy that rises and falls  
With the ebb and flow of circumstances beyond our control,  
But with the profound joy**

That only you can give  
And that nobody can take away.

**(44)** In the strength of that joy,  
May we your people continue to proclaim your truth  
And share your grace  
Not only within the walls of our Churches,  
But in the halls of government,  
In the voting booth,  
In the media,  
And in every inch of the public square.

**(45)** Lord, in our work for you, may we find you.  
In our efforts to change the world, may we ourselves be changed.  
In our struggle to build a Culture of Life, may we find life eternal. We pray through Christ our Lord.

***Closing prayer of Recommitment to End Abortion (all pray together)***

**(46)** *Dear Friends, let us now recommit ourselves to the great cause of laboring for the protection of life; let us do so with utmost confidence in the grace of Jesus Christ, who lives and works in us and through us for the salvation of the world. Let us pray together:*

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,  
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.  
I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion,  
Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death  
by the Resurrection of Your Son.  
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.  
Today I commit myself  
Never to be silent,  
Never to be passive,  
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.  
I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,  
And never to stop defending life  
Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,  
And our nation once again becomes

A nation with liberty and justice  
Not just for some, but for all,  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

**(47) Closing Blessing** *(all clergy participating jointly)*