

## Litanies and Reflections based on Bible Themes

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Isaiah 2:4 and Mark 13:8 (2003) – Swords and Plowshares

The bible says:

*Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. (Mark 13:8)*

and also

*nation shall not lift up a sword against nation neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:4, Micah 4:3)*

The bible says:

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. (Isaiah 2:4, Micah 4:3)*

and also

*Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears. (Joel 3:10)*

**Caught in the chasm  
between your kingdom and our reality  
we pray to you, Sophia, God of Wisdom,  
for compassion in our day.**

Isaiah 2:1-5, 11:1-10, 35:1-10, and 7:10-16 – Advent  
(Isaiah's vision juxtaposed with the lyrics for "Toda la Tierra" by Alberto Taule)

First Sunday of Advent

And everyone 'neath the vine and fig tree  
Shall live in peace and unafraid.

**All earth is waiting  
to see the promised one,  
And the open furrows,  
the sowing of the Lord.**

And into plowshares turn their swords  
Nations shall learn war no more.

**All the world, bound and struggling  
seeks true liberty;  
It cries out for justice  
and searches for the truth.**

Second Sunday of Advent

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse  
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him

**Thus says the prophets  
to those of Israel  
"A virgin mother  
will bear Emmanuel,"**

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard  
shall lie with the kid,  
And a little child shall lead them.

**For his name is "God with us",  
Our brother shall be,  
With him hope shall blossom  
once more within our hearts.**

Third Sunday of Advent

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

**Mountains and valleys  
will have to be made plain;  
Open new highways,  
new highways for the Lord.**

For the waters shall break forth in the  
wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
A highway shall be there, and the ransomed of  
the Lord shall return.

**He is now coming closer,  
so come all and see,  
And open the doorways  
as wide as wide can be.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hear then, O house of David!  
The Lord himself will give you a sign.

**In lowly stable,  
the promised one appeared,  
Yet, feel his presence  
throughout the world today,**

Look, the young woman is with child and shall  
bear a son,  
and shall call his name Immanuel.

**For he lives in all Christians  
and is with us now.  
Again, with his coming  
he brings us liberty.**

Isaiah 40:21-31 (2003)

Have you not known?

**Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but we who wait for the Lord shall renew  
our strength.**

Have you not heard?

**We shall mount up with wings like eagles.  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?**

**We shall run and not be weary.**

Have you not understood from the foundations  
of the earth?

**We shall walk and not be faint.**

They who wait for the Lord.

**We who wait for the Lord.**

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Isaiah 43 (2002)

Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes,

Who are deaf, yet have ears!

**We are the witnesses.**

You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am your God.

**We are the witnesses.**

Before me no god was formed, says the Lord, nor shall there be any after me.

I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no other.

I declared and saved and proclaimed, and you are my witnesses, says the Lord.

**We are the witnesses.**

**We are God's witnesses,**

**gifted with the vision  
challenged with the responsibility.**

**We are the witnesses.**

Isaiah 61 - see Luke 4

Jeremiah 1 and Acts 9

Jeremiah was just a young inexperienced boy when he heard God's call to preach.

**All are welcome here.**

Jesus shared supper with the undesirables in his community.

**All are welcome here.**

Paul was attacking Christians when God spoke to him and changed his life.

**All are welcome here.**

Jeremiah 29 (1998)

Litany of Confession and Assurance

But thus says the Lord:

Seek shalom wherever you are, and pray to the Lord

for your shalom shall be found in the shalom of the community.

**We find ourselves in exile caused by relationships, economics, and failing health.**

But thus says the Lord:

Seek shalom wherever you are, and pray to the Lord

for your shalom shall be found in the shalom of the community.

**We feel used by people and systems,  
sometimes even abused.**

But thus says the Lord:

Seek shalom wherever you are, and pray to the Lord for your shalom shall be found in the shalom of the community.

**We thirst for God's promised justice through swift vengeance.**

But thus says the Lord:

Seek shalom wherever you are, and pray to the Lord

for your shalom shall be found in the shalom of the community.

**We strive to protect our families and our interests from any wrath.**

But thus says the Lord:

Seek shalom wherever you are, and pray to the Lord

for your shalom shall be found in the shalom of the community.

**We long for the day when passive peace will prevail.**

But thus says the Lord:

Seek shalom wherever you are, and pray to the Lord

for your shalom shall be found in the shalom of the community.

**May our actions embody our prayers  
for the healing of the community  
and therein may we find our long awaited  
wholeness.**

**Amen.**

Jeremiah 33 - see Zephaniah 3- Advent Prayer