



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN CANADA

Prayer Vigil for Persecuted Christians



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament where possible

Reading of the general text on persecution

♪ Singing

PONTIFICAL
CHARITY





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First reading: Acts 4.1-5, 18-21

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand. The next day their ruler, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem. They called Peter and John and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard." After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened.

Psalm 27

R/ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

R/ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh-
my adversaries and foes-
They shall stumble and fall.

R/ The Lord is my light and my salvation.



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Though an army encamps against me,
my heart shall not fear;
Though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

R/ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

R/ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel according to Matthew 5 1-12a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

The Word of the Lord.





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♪ Singing

Testimony of a witness or reading the text of examples of religious persecution

Prayers of the faithful:

(Below are some suggested universal prayers that can be adapted:)

With trust and humility, let us present our prayers to God who is the path of peace.

R/ We pray to you, God of peace.

Lord, we pray for all the Christians in this world who cannot practise their faith without fear. R/

Lord, we pray that every being, regardless of their religion, live in peace and harmony without any kind of persecution. R/

Lord, we pray to you for those who, every day, announce the Good News at the peril of their own safety. R/

Lord, we pray to you for those who at this moment are denied their freedom and are held hostage because of their faith. R/

Lord, we pray to you for all those who languish in prison for refusing to renounce their faith. R/

Lord, we pray for those who persecute Christians with the hope that their hearts may be forever changed through your love. R/

Lord, hear our prayers and lead us on paths of peace. Amen.

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Prayer in silence (10 minutes)

Our Father

Blessing with or without the Blessed Sacrament depending on the situation

♪ Singing