

LAMENT LITURGY WITH "O GOD, DO NOT KEEP SILENT"

Sing verse one – O God, Do Not Keep Silent

EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR HUMAN SUFFERING

Leader: In our suffering and in our hurts; in our wounds and in our scars; in our fears and in our anxieties; we come before you.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: With our broken bodies and broken spirits; with our empty bellies and our empty hearts; with our shaking hands and our shaken hope; heal us.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: As we forget and walk past those around us who are broken, who are empty, and who shake with fear, with sadness, and with hopelessness; forgive us.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Sing verse two – O God, Do Not Keep Silent

EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR PERSECUTION AND WARS

Leader: As battles rage around the world, those fought with our complicity and those of which we know nothing, break our spears, our arrows, our guns, our bombs, and our drones. Turn those weapons of violence into words and actions of peace and hope.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: For forgotten children and those who have forgotten them, for fearful wives and those who instill fear, for terrorized communities and those who bring terror.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: For Christians throughout the world longing for freedom to pray, sing, and worship, for those martyrs who have died in the faith, and for the continued presence of the blessed saints who guide us throughout our lives.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Sing verse three – O God, Do Not Keep Silent

EXPRESSING A DESIRE FOR CHURCH UNITY

Leader: As we gather in this place, remind us that Christ's prayer of oneness is still a dream that lies ahead of us. Forgive us for the energies we put into denominationalism, factionalism, and nationalism that draw your body in the world asunder.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the churches represented in this congregation and in this choir, grant peace and continued hope for their ministries, and draw us together in your mercy, in your hope, and in your love.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: The prayers of your children, the triumphant dancing, and the shouts of praise will never ring as loudly, and move as rhythmically, or speak as poetically as when we will all gather together on that final day. Prepare our hearts for that joy and grant us glimpses of the blessed kingdom to come.

All: Lord, have mercy.