

150th Anniversary Prayer

December 19, 2022

A Reading from Isaiah

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse;
from Jesse's roots a Branch will blossom;
The Spirit of YHWH will rest on you—
the spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the spirit of counsel and of strength,
the spirit of the knowledge and reverence
for YHWH—
You will delight in obeying YHWH,
And you won't judge by appearances or
make decisions by hearsay.
You will treat poor people with fairness
and will uphold the rights of the land's
downtrodden.
With a single word you will strike down
tyrants; with your decrees you will execute
evil people.
Justice will be the belt around this your
waist
faithfulness will gird you up.

The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the young
goat;
the calf and the lion cub will graze
together,
and a little child will lead them.
The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat hay like the ox.
The baby will play next to the den of the
cobra,
and the toddler will dance over the viper's
nest.
They will be no harm, no destruction
anywhere on all my holy mountain;
for as water fills the sea,
so, the land will be filled with knowledge of
YHWH
On that Day, the Root of Jesse will serve
as a symbol to the peoples of the world -
nations will flock to you, and your home will
be a place of honor.

The Inclusive Bible Is.11:1-10



Loving God,

These months of celebrating your fidelity to us as Dominican Sisters of Springfield in the United States and Peru remind us that the heart and mission of Jesus is what we are meant to be about as a congregation.ⁱ During the season of Advent, our longing to be all you call us to be deepens. Hear us as we pray with our communion of saints of sisters and associates.

- Challenged by the words of the prophet Isaiah we recommit ourselves to your prayer, "*Father, that all may be one.*" (*Jn 17:21*) We continue the compassionate response of our foundresses to the needs of women, children, and men who leave their countries and homes as migrants, immigrants, and refugees. Give us a spirit of humility, wisdom, and understanding as we persevere in welcoming your people in need.

R: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. *Is 9:2*

- Motivated by the unprecedented reality on your holy mountain of the wolf and lamb lying together, we sense a deepening desire to bring peace in our every word and action for the life of the world. You have blessed us with eyes to see and hearts to think as we made a way of peace for all those who were/are touched over the years and now by our ministerial efforts through Mercy Communities, PORA, Mini O'Bierne Crisis Nursery, our actions to prevent human trafficking and abuse, and so many more unnamed deeds offering restoration of an individual's dignity, value and worth. Continue enlarging our hearts and clarifying our vision so we might persist in inviting others into your way of faithfulness and presence.

R: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. *Is 9:2*

- Roused by your promise of the demise of all harm and destruction as the earth is filled with the knowledge of the Lord, we say, "Yes," again to our congregation's commitment to become an anti-racist institution. Help us to see our collusion within any colonizing of Christianity which keeps systems in place causing inequity and pain. Give us courage to ask what more we need to unlearn so to stop compounding the wrongs of racism in all its forms.

R: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. *Is 9:2*

All: We long for the complete joy of your kingdom. Help us to be attentive and passionate inviters of the next generation of our congregation. As you once inspired our foundresses and moved them to make radical choices, so breathe new life and vision into us urging us to be a congregation of presence and service rooted in your Word now and into the future. Amen! ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Adapted from: NRVC Opening Our Hearts and Homes-Prayer, Page 8

ⁱⁱ Ibid.