Now, Lord, come to our aid!

Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace.

Lord, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of violence into implements of peace and our quarreling into heartfelt dialogue. At the same time, open our ears to the pleas of those who cry out for racial justice and equality.

Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: “Never again violence!” Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

God of mercy, we especially lift up the community of St. Louis. Help all to see that violence and destruction does not bring about justice. Send forth your healing, reconciliation and forgiveness for all in the community.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way, may peace triumph at last.

Lord, renew our hearts and minds, so that our way of life will always be that of peace.

(Adapted from a prayer by Pope Francis.)

Amen.