



PHILIPPINE ECUMENICAL  
PEACE PLATFORM

Please join us!

**NATIONAL ECUMENICAL SUNDAY OF LAMENT**

**May 2, 2021**



**Respect and Protect God's Gift of Life and Reject the  
Prevailing Culture of Violence and Death!**

**Let Us All Pray and Work for a Just and Lasting Peace**

*"For God is not a God of disorder but of peace —as in all the congregations  
of the Lord's people." (1 Corinthians 14:33)*



Let this be a time for churches, from different denominations, to speak up and declare God's love for all. Let us uphold the sanctity of life and condemn the culture of violence and death that has enveloped our country.

*This National Ecumenical Day of Lament can be in a form of a prayer, a moment of silence, a homily/sermon, a ringing of church bells, a combination of these, or any other creative form.*

## LITURGICAL GUIDE

### NATIONAL ECUMENICAL SUNDAY OF LAMENT

**MAY 2, 2021**

Note:

*The cross and Bible are covered with a BLACK CLOTH at the start of the liturgy, to symbolize the world's greed, hate and violence.*

*The black cloth also resembles the veil covering the face of the image of Mary, Jesus' mother (in most Catholic tradition churches) - an emblem of sorrow and lament for the unjust and inhumane way of death for her Son, Jesus. Up until today, there are still many Mary's among us, weeping in anguish for the human rights atrocities committed by our country's government and those in power across the world.*

*This liturgical guide comes in two forms: one is for Reformed Tradition Churches and another is for Catholic Tradition Churches.*

# LITURGY FOR REFORMED TRADITION CHURCHES

*(For Reformed tradition churches, this is the suggested liturgy for the ecumenical Sunday of Lament. An altar, with the Paschal Candle (a large white Candle, some churches call this the Christ Candle) on the side, may be set up with a Bible, flowers or plants, and a cross. But the altar should be covered (except the Christ Candle) with a black cloth. At a certain part of the liturgy, the black cloth will be removed. Violet/purple candles must be prepared to serve as candles of lament. Since this will be celebrated on a first Sunday, we have provided the essential texts for the communion rite.)*

**Prelude** *(or sound of an instrument)*

## Opening Sentences

**Minister:** Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to Him, and all ages;  
to Him be glory and power, through every age and forever.

**People: Amen.**

*\* The Christ Candle is lit*

**People:** The Light of Christ Jesus and the glorious resurrection  
“dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen,  
and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.”  
*(altered, from Exultet, the Easter Proclamation)*

## Opening Prayer

**Leader:** Executed yet Resurrected God, you claimed victory over death and evil, we your gathered people are filled with hope and vision, despite the troublesome occurrences in our country and around the world. Hatred and prejudice, injustice and unpeace, inhumane acts and violence, has filled our nation and world.

**People:** Strengthen us, God of new life and encourage us to live-out our hope and faith in your promised resurrection like the women who were the first witnesses of your victory. Embolden us to preach, amidst the bleak past and present, the good news of salvation to all peoples regardless of gender preference, color, race, ideology, and belief system.

*\*The black cloth is removed.*

**Leader:** Risen God, help us remove the veils of sorrow from our communities and churches. Enable us to use the symbol as a form of resistance against the violence committed toward women and children and those disregarded by our society.

**People:** As we continue to wear black, let this not counteract Your message of new life and resurrection, but all the more, serve as a color of indignation, of rising up against those who use power to destroy and marginalize those who are helpless and the underprivileged. May this color remind us of the tomb where You were laid, after Your death, serving as passage to Your glorious resurrection.

**Leader:** Be with us, Risen Jesus as we go through the tombs, the dark tombs, as we struggle towards a new life of just peace and equity among peoples. Rise with us, Jesus, as we claim victory over evil and

violence, over hate and prejudice, over injustice and unpeace. Accompany us, Jesus in our daily struggle towards total liberation. Amen.

**Invitation to Lament “Naririnig Mo Ba Iyak na Walang Humpay?”**

Words: Klein Emperado;

Hymn Tune: “Kadakilaan Mo, O Diyos” (Serafin O. Ruperto)

*Naririnig mo ba iyak na walang humpay?  
Ng bawat tahanan, mga naulila  
Mga ina’t anak, asawa’t kapatid  
O Diyos, walang tigil kanilang pagtangis.*

*Natatanaw mo ba pagdurusa ng bayan?  
Karapatang tao, ‘di na ginagalang  
Nabalot sa dahas, nasadlak sa dilim  
O Diyos, walang tigil, aming pagdurusa.*

*Nalulungkot ka ba sa sinapit ng bayan?  
Dukha’y dumarami, walang matakbuhan  
Kanilang pag-asa, tanging Ikaw lamang  
O Diyos, wag Mo nawa kaming pabayaan.*

*Naririnig mo ba aming mga panaghoy?  
Dugo’y dumadanak, tila walang humpay  
Kapayapaa’t katarungan kay-ilap  
O Diyos, dinggin Mo na ang aming pagtangis.*

**Prayers of Lament**

**Leader 1**

O God our hope and refuge, in weary, dark  
and difficult moments of our nation’s narrative.

We come to you, expressing our laments for the nation wailing endlessly.

For peace and justice to reign and to condemn the rampant killings.

For the bloodshed and injustice that has claimed the lives of many.

Yet no justice has been served.

Perpetrators continue to roam freely in our communities.

So many of our people are suffering from poverty and from hunger.

But the authorities tend to ignore their desperate cries for help.

**\*A Candle of Lament are lit.** (violet candles if possible)

**Leader 2**

O God, we express our lament.

For the persecution of peacemakers and truth-tellers.

For the red-tagging of church people, peace advocates and union workers.

For the wrongly-accused and imprisoned activists and church workers.

For the displacement of workers due to the pandemic.

For the desecration of our country's natural resources.  
For the government's militaristic approach to a medical health crisis.  
For the culture of impunity that pervades in our communities today.

***\*A Candle of Lament are lit.***

*Silence*

**Leader 3**

O God, we lament, we cry-out to you for justice.  
For the oppression and killings of the laborers, fisherfolks and farmers.  
For the exploitation of women, children, youth and the LGBTQI.  
For the persecution and killing of prophets, church workers, priests, and pastors.  
For the Lumad killings and harassment due to their love of their ancestral land.  
For the slain environmental activists and human rights defenders.  
For the lives lost due to the spate of extra-judicial killings in our country.  
(here names of the slain victims of Extra Judicial Killings may be mentioned)

***\*A Candle of Lament are lit.***

*Silence*

**Leader 3**

We weep and cry in anguish, O God.  
For our indifference to the issues affecting our national life.  
For our apathy to the needs and struggles of our people.  
For our complacency, for not minding about issues that directly affect us.  
For our lack of empathy to the suffering, deprived, and exploited.  
For our cowardice to resist tyranny and dictatorship.  
For our lack of courage to stand against the unjust systems around us.

***\*A Candle of Lament are lit.***

*Silence*

**Leader 4**

How long, O God will Your people suffer from unending misery?  
How long, O God will Your nation experience oppression and injustice?  
How long, O God are we to endure the pains and betrayals of our own government?  
How long, O God will we lament? How long, O God shall we cry for justice?  
How long, O God will we call for just peace to reign in our land?  
How long, O God will we call for respect for God's gift of human dignity?  
How long, O God shall we call for an end to the bloody killings and raids?  
How long, O God shall we cry a dirge for all the sufferings we are faced as a people?  
How long, O God? How long shall we walk the difficult paths to liberation?

***\*A Candle of Lament are lit.***

*Silence*

**All Leaders Together**

Are our sufferings not enough reason for You to rescue us?  
Are our laments not enough reason for You to hear our cries?  
Are our people's spilled blood not enough reason for You to aid us in our affliction?  
Do You still hear and see our miserable situations, O God?  
Do You still feel our struggles and tribulations, O God?  
**\*A Candle of Lament are lit.**

*Silence*

## **Response**

*"We Lament, O God"*  
Words: Klein F. Emperado  
Tune: Dandansoy (Hiligaynon Folk Tune)

*We lament, O God, we lament,  
For Your people in misery  
We cry out for justice to reign  
Hear, O God our cries and laments*

## **Sharing of God's Peace**

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

## **Scripture Reading**

**Message Through a Hymn "Masdan Mo" IFI MAP#106 (Rodolfo Vera)**

(Link to VIDEO - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EJj1ofKSL46RSUrUNu5yt2DP7yugTI9G/view?usp=sharing>)

***Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie! Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie!  
Christe Eleison, Christe! Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie!***

*Masdan mo ang 'Yong mundo pinaghaharian ng mga tao.  
Ang dangal Mo ay naglalaho, nagugunaw na'ng lahat ng likha Mo.*

*Masdan mo ang bayan ko, pinaghaharian ng mga tirano  
At maliit at mahihina ay sukdang dugo ang iniluluha.*

*Masdan mo ang kapwa ko, ang Iyong mga anak nanalugso  
At pinaslang ay humihingi ng 'Yong katarungan.*

**Testimony of Lament** (Here, a narrative or a personal experience related to the culture of impunity that pervades in our society today.)

## **Sermon**

### **Affirmation of Faith "We Believe in the God of Shalom"**

(Klein Emperado, Peace Sunday Liturgy, Silliman University Divinity School Indigenous Liturgies)

We believe in the God of Shalom – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.  
We believe in the God who creates and recreates the world.  
We believe in the God who came to live among us,

to bring liberation from all forms of bondage and slavery.  
We believe in the God who accompanies us in our journeys and struggles;  
on our pilgrimage to Shalom – the reign of God’s peace,  
justice and life abundant for all. Amen.

### **Offertory Call**

We live in a world victimized by tyranny and patriarchy. Yet we are here. We sing our songs; we pray our prayers; we hope for a world where everyone lives in abundance; we work for a country where life is nurtured; we struggle with the whole of humanity for equitable relationships. We dare to live, we dare to act, and we dare to struggle.

In the face of a pandemic, we see and feel a world in need of healing. Despite the threats and dangers brought about by this health crisis. Come and offer yourselves in service as midwives of healing for a broken and unjust world. Come, offer your gifts for the advancement of God’s reign on earth.

**Song** *“One Little Candle” or “Darating Ang Liwanag” (Jonas Baes)*

### **Offertory Prayer (Unison)**

Accept the offering of our gifts and empower us, O God to translate our gifts of faith and hope into works of peace and justice for others. Empower us, O God to commit our lives to You in the service for the least and the last. Challenge us, O God to see the realities and to offer our whole being in solidarity with those who are enslaved by the existing powers and systems. Transform ourselves and our gifts of service and commitment by Your Holy Spirit to become Your hands and heart in today’s broken and divided world. Amen.

## **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

### **Hymn of Preparation “Sa Dulang ng Ama”**

*Sa iisang hapag ating itatag ang pagkakaisa  
Ang sisidlang basag ating ilapag sa dulang ng Ama*

*Pagsaluhan natin ang luksa at damhin ang sugat ng bansa  
At doon, doon natin ipunla, Butil ng diwang mapagpalaya  
Sa iisang hapag ating itatag, ibangon, itindig*

*Sa dulang ng katotohanan, sa sahig ng katarungan  
Doon, doon natin ipagdiwang, Kapayapaa't pag-ibig*

**Minister:** Liberating and Compassionate God, You have commissioned us to work, act and build with You a just and safer world for all to dwell. From age to age, You have revealed Your salvation to all peoples. The people of old and the prophets longed for the day of the coming of Shalom – Your reign of abundance and lasting peace.

Jesus invites us, through the example he has shown to us - a love without boundaries, inclusive and ever-embracing. Jesus invites us to share a meal with the despised and to mingle with the marginalized, those who are without name or status, those who are not given any proper recognition by our society. Jesus invites us to break bread, share the wine as a sacrament of encompassing love and so we celebrate this

love through our solidarity with those who are treated unjustly by our society, with those who are considered as outcast and unworthy of love. Through this communion meal, we express our solidarity with them who suffer due to our inhumane acts.

For the love shown to us by Your Son, Jesus, we praise and bless Your Holy Name, whom all the earth and heaven adore in triumphant hymns of praise:

### **Holy, Holy, Holy (HFJ#70)**

*Holy, Holy, Holy God of pow'r and might  
Heav'n and earth are full of glory  
Hosanna in the highest, blessed is the One  
Who comes in the name of God, hosanna in the highest!*

### **Words of Institution**

On the night before Jesus was killed by the world's unjust systems and powers, Jesus took bread and gave thanks to God, then gave it to the followers saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you, do this to remember me."

In the same manner, Jesus took the drink and gave thanks to God, then gave it to the followers and said, "Take this all of you and drink from it, this is my blood, poured out for you, do this to remember me."

### **Consecration of the Bread and the Cup**

God, we bring to you, the sufferings of the people, especially those on the margins who are now faced with hunger and oppression due to the pandemic. By this communion meal, may we share in Christ's passion, death and resurrection and may we also share with the pains and sufferings of Christ's body including those who are neglected by our communities. Make holy, O God of justice, by the power of the Holy Spirit, this bread and cup, who, in Christ's memory we partake.

For through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are Yours, O Parent Powerful God, now and forever. Amen.

Let us pray in the words Jesus Christ has taught us, for the coming of God's reign of justice.

*\*The Lord's Prayer.*

### **Invitation to Communion**

Come, people of God, share in the bread and the cup of Christ.  
Partake of Christ's suffering and death and glory in the resurrection.  
Come, partake of Christ's sacrament of love, justice, and peace.

### **Distribution of the Communion Elements**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we are grateful for this time of gathering, and being in an encounter with You.

May we renew our commitment as Your people, to stand with the marginalized and oppressed, the poor and the underprivileged. We ask Your Holy Spirit to fire-up our beings in the continued service to You and to Your people. May we become living sacraments of love and compassion to those who are deprived of welcome, affirmation, respect for human dignity, shelter, food, clothing, and a home in this age corrupted by self-righteousness, hate prejudice and indifference. Grant us courage to stand with those who are deprived of their basic rights as human beings. All these we ask in Jesus, the Bread of Life and Living Water. Amen.

## Hymn of Challenge “How Can We Be Silent?” (Mark Mahler)

(Youtube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5OriJzAVyw>)

*How can we be silent when we know our God is near,  
Bringing light to those in darkness, to the worthless, endless worth,  
How can we be silent when we are the voice of Christ,  
Speaking justice to the nations, breathing love to all the earth?*

*How can we be silent when our God has conquered death,  
Stretching out his arms to suffer so that we might have new life?  
How can we be silent when we've seen that Jesus rose,  
And will come again in glory, ending suffering and strife?*

***None can stop the Spirit burning now inside us.  
We will shape the future. We will not be silent.***

*How can we be silent as we turn our eyes away  
And ignore the poor and broken who lie bleeding in the streeting?  
How can we be silent when we're called to heal and serve  
In the image of Lord Jesus who has stooped to wash our feet?*

***None can stop the Spirit burning now inside us.  
We will shape the future. We will not be silent.***

*How can we be silent, not give praise with all our hearts,  
For Christ Jesus is our Savior and compassion is our king?  
How can we be silent when God gave us life to be  
vibrant instruments of worship, made to laugh and dance and sing?*

*How can we be silent when our souls are filled with awe  
At the beauty of creation and the mercy of our Lord?  
How can we be silent when we yearn to sing new songs?  
In our hearts a fire is burning and it will not be ignored!*

***None can stop the Spirit burning now inside us.  
We will shape the future. We will not be silent.***

## **Closing Prayer (Minister)**

### **Benediction**

**Minister:** God empowers. God renews. God sustains.  
God's power and sustenance be with you now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**Minister:** God creates. God redeems. God sustains.  
God's peace and justice be with you now and always.

**People:** Amen.

**Minister:** Go forth. Bear witness to God's peace, justice, and love.  
Uphold human dignity. Struggle to dismantle unjust and inhumane structures.  
Speak the truth. Defend the marginalized. Preach God's liberation to all.

**People:** Amen.

### **Response "How Can We Be Silent?" (refrain only)**

*None can stop the Spirit burning now inside.  
We will shape the future. We will not be silent.*

### **Ringling of Church Bells/Bells**

# LITURGY FOR CATHOLIC TRADITION CHURCHES

*(For Catholic tradition churches, the laments can be inserted before the intercessory prayers. An altar, with the Paschal Candle on the side, may be set up with a Bible, flowers or plants, and a cross. But the altar should be covered (except the Paschal Candle) with a black cloth. At a certain part of the liturgy, the black cloth will be removed. Violet/purple candles must be prepared to serve as candles of lament.)*

**Guitar Prelude** (*somber in mood*)

## Opening Sentences

**Minister:** Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to Him, and all ages;  
to Him be glory and power, through every age and forever.

**People: Amen.**

*\* The Paschal Candle is lit*

**People:** The Light of Christ Jesus and the glorious resurrection  
“dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen,  
and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.”  
*(altered, from Exultet, the Easter Proclamation)*

## Opening Prayer

**Leader:** Executed yet Resurrected God, You claimed victory over death and evil, we your gathered people are filled with hope and vision, despite the troublesome occurrences in our country and around the world. Hatred and prejudice, injustice and unpeace, inhumane acts and violence, has filled our nation and world.

**People:** Strengthen us, God of new life and encourage us to live-out our hope and faith in Your promised resurrection like the women who were the first witnesses of Your victory. Embolden us to preach, amidst the bleak past and present, the good news of salvation to all peoples regardless of gender preference, color, race, ideology, and belief system.

*\*The black cloth is removed.*

**Leader:** Risen God, help us remove the veils of sorrow from our communities and churches. Enable us to use the symbol as a form of resistance for the violence committed against women and children and those disregarded by our society.

**People:** As we continue to wear black, let this not counteract Your message of new life and resurrection but all the more, serve as a color of indignation, of rising up against those who use power to destroy and marginalize those who are helpless and the underprivileged. May this color remind us of the tomb where You were laid, after Your death, serving as passage to Your glorious resurrection.

**Leader:** Be with us, Risen Jesus as we go through the tombs, the dark tombs, as we struggle towards a new life of just peace and equity among peoples. Rise with us, Jesus, as we claim victory over evil and violence, over hate and prejudice, over injustice and unpeace. Accompany us, Jesus in our daily struggle towards total liberation. Amen.

## Invitation to Lament *“Naririnig Mo Ba Iyak na Walang Humpay?”*

Words: Klein Emperado;

Hymn Tune: “Kadakilaan Mo, O Diyos” (Serafin O. Ruperto)

*Naririnig mo ba iyak na walang humpay?  
Ng bawat tahanan, mga naulila  
Mga ina’t anak, asawa’t kapatid  
O Diyos, walang tigil kanilang pagtangis.*

*Natatanaw mo ba pagdurusa ng bayan?  
Karapatang tao, ‘di na ginagalang  
Nabalot sa dahas, nasadlak sa dilim  
O Diyos, walang tigil, aming pagdurusa.*

*Nalulungkot ka ba sa sinapit ng bayan?  
Dukha’y dumarami, walang matakbuhan  
Kanilang pag-asa, tanging Ikaw lamang  
O Diyos, wag Mo nawa kaming pabaya.*

*Naririnig mo ba aming mga panaghoy?  
Dugo’y dumadanak, tila walang humpay  
Kapayapaa’t katarungan kay-ilap  
O Diyos, dinggin Mo na ang aming pagtangis.*

***\*The Candles of Lament are lit.** (violet candles if possible)*

### Prayers of Lament

#### Leader1

O God our hope and refuge, in weary, dark  
and difficult moments of our nation’s narrative.  
We come to you, expressing our laments for the nation wailing endlessly.  
For peace and justice to reign and to condemn the rampant killings.  
For the bloodshed and injustice that has claimed the lives of many.  
Yet no justice has been served.  
Perpetrators continue to roam freely in our communities.  
So many of our people are suffering from poverty and from hunger.  
But the authorities tend to ignore their desperate cries for help.

***\*A Candle of Lament are lit.***

#### Leader2

O God, we express our lament.  
For the persecution of peacemakers and truth-tellers.  
For the red-tagging of church people, peace advocates and union workers.  
For the wrongly-accused and imprisoned activists and church workers.  
For the displacement of workers due to the pandemic.  
For the desecration of our country’s natural resources.

For the government's militaristic approach to a medical health crisis.  
For the culture of impunity that pervades in our communities today.

***\*A Candle of Lament are lit.***

*Silence*

**Leader3**

O God, we lament, we cry-out to you for justice.

For the oppression and killings of the laborers, fisherfolks and farmers.

For the exploitation of women, children, youth and the LGBTQI.

For the persecution and killing of prophets, church workers, priests, and pastors.

For the Lumad killings and harassment due to their love of their ancestral land.

For the slain environmental activists and human rights defenders.

For the lives lost due to the spate of extra-judicial killings in our country.

*(here names of the slain victims of Extra Judicial Killings may be mentioned)*

***\*A Candle of Lament are lit.***

*Silence*

**Leader3**

We weep and cry in anguish, O God.

For our indifference to the issues affecting our national life.

For our apathy to the needs and struggles of our people.

For our complacency, for not minding about issues that directly affect us.

For our lack of empathy to the suffering, deprived, and exploited.

For our cowardice to resist tyranny and dictatorship.

For our lack of courage to stand against the unjust systems around us.

***\*A Candle of Lament are lit.***

*Silence*

**Leader4**

How long, O God will Your people suffer from unending misery?

How long, O God will Your nation experience oppression and injustice?

How long, O God are we to endure the pains and betrayals of our own government?

How long, O God will we lament? How long, O God shall we cry for justice?

How long, O God will we call for just peace to reign in our land?

How long, O God will we call for respect for God's gift of human dignity?

How long, O God shall we call for an end to the bloody killings and raids?

How long, O God shall we cry a dirge for all the sufferings we are faced as a people?

How long, O God? How long shall we walk the difficult paths to liberation?

***\*A Candle of Lament are lit.***

*Silence*

### **All Leaders Together)**

Are our sufferings not enough reason for You to rescue us?

Are our laments not enough reason for You to hear our cries?

Are our people's spilled blood not enough reason for You to aid us in our affliction?

Do You still hear and see our miserable situations, O God?

Do You still feel our struggles and tribulations, O God?

*\*A Candle of Lament are lit.*

*Silence*

### **Response**

*"We Lament, O God"*

Words: Klein F. Emperado

Tune: Dandansoy (Hiligaynon Folk Tune)

*We lament, O God, we lament,*

*For Your people in misery*

*We cry out for justice to reign*

*Hear, O God our cries and laments*

### **Ringling of Church Bells/Bells**

*(The liturgy will proceed with the intercessory prayers)*

### **SUGGESTED HYMNS AND SONGS for the National Ecumenical Sunday of Lament**

- **"How Can We Be Silent?" (Mark Mahler)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5OriJzAVyw>
- **One Little Candle**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgwA9Inw748>
- **"Darating ang Liwanag" (Jonas Baes)**  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zRDTe\\_iSWbhVVqlc\\_mchJWXBHp7ZFCDD/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zRDTe_iSWbhVVqlc_mchJWXBHp7ZFCDD/view?usp=sharing)
- **"Masdan Mo"**  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EJj1ofKSL46RSUrUNu5yt2DP7yugTl9G/view?usp=sharing>

Liturgy Writer:

**Klein F. Emperado**

Youth of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente

Diocese of Negros Oriental & Siquijor