

**#17: Grant Peace We Pray /
Ososo: Come Now, O Prince of Peace**

Listen to track 17 of *Songs of Justice and Peace*.

You can find the words in ELW 778. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship)



LDA
Lutheran Deaconess Association

Scripture:

"...Pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us." Psalm 62:8

Devotions:

She was weeping inconsolably. "Don't send me back there! They beat on me! Please, give me another chance!"

But the bridges were burned behind her. She already had many chances and all of them had ended in broken relationships, injury to self and others and frustration to those who had thought they could make it better. There was no option left to try -- at least none anyone knew about. One more hope dashed. One more dream shattered. Why couldn't she make better choices? Why did she seem to do the exact opposite of what she needed to do? If there were any more chances hidden in the future, her weeping seemed to make them less attainable.

"No, we can't deal with her."

"No, her mother never wants to see her again. Don't let her call. Certainly do not visit!"

"No, we don't have the services she needs."

"No, our program is not designed for people like her."

"No, we have nothing to offer."

"No, our funding does not cover that."

"No, we can't try her again. Not after what happened last time."

She is like a leaning wall, a tottering fence about to be broken down, overrun without hope. One and only one fortress remains -- God. O Prince of Peace, come now to help! There is no other. Please hurry.

Prayer:

God of Peace, only You can change us when we can not change ourselves. Only You can grant peace where there is no peace. Only You can change situations over which we have no control. Fit us in to Your good plans. Change us as You see we need to change. Help us to be agents of Your peace in places where chaos rules. Be our refuge and strong fortress. Defend us. Fight for us. Come. Amen.

Reflection:

Talk with your group, or take time to write in a journal about these things. Where do you see relationships broken? How might reconciliation happen? Where do you see the need to be set free? How can you discern God's peace in the chaos of this world?

Deaconess Linda Schaefer, Atlanta, IL

The Lutheran Deaconess Association prepares people for ministries of service to those in need in the church and the world; supports deaconesses in their varied ministries; encourages the whole people of God in their own Christian service; and assists the church in its diaconal mission.

Website: www.TheLDA.org