

SO SEND I YOU, INC. 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Saint John Baptist Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Time: Feb 26, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every day, until Mar 31, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82089300351?pwd=qdHdd5LGaTRWPhJCRgOxsK6bL2Fnji.1>

Meeting ID: 820 8930 0351

Passcode: 628471

Dial by your location

- **+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**
- **+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

**DAY 11
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

HOPE FOR A BLOOD-SOAKED WORLD

Dr. Julius R. Scruggs

Isaiah 2:4 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Blood is being shed throughout our world. It is being shed through police brutality as our sons and daughters are being slaughtered innocently. Blood is being shed as we observe black-on-black crime as it continues to occur. Most of all blood is being shed and soaking in spots and places as war continues to occur. Ever since I was born (1942), America has been involved in wars and bloodshed. When I was born, she was involved in World War II. Then in the 1950's there was the Korean War. In the 1960s, we were engaged in the Vietnam War. Later there was "Desert Storm" and the Iraq War. For about twenty years, we were at war with Afghanistan. Now we are indirectly helping Ukraine in its war with Russia and Israel in its war with Hamas. War and bloodshed! We do live in a blood-soaked world.

In the passage of scripture for today's mediation, Isaiah the prophet envisioned a day when there would be no more war and shedding of blood. God gave him an

eschatological vision about the future time when men would beat their swords and spears (weapons of war) into instruments of useful agricultural productivity.

What causes war and bloodshed? Why do we seemingly like to fight with each other? James 4:1-2 suggests that we go to war and shed each other's blood because we are covetous and greedy. Nations start wars and shed each other's blood because they are greedy for more land, oil, gold, silver, copper, and other resources.

If greed and covetousness, etc. are the causes of war and bloodshed, what then is the cure? The prophet Isaiah suggests to us that blood-thirst can be cured by more God-thirst. Here is what he says in Isaiah 2:3: "Many people shall come and say, 'Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.'" When this is our response to God's will, then we will cease to go to war and cease to shed each other's blood. We will not have war desires and bloodthirsty attitudes because God will have created in us a strong desire for His Will. To use Paul's expression in Philippians 2, God will work in us, "both to will and to do according to his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). To say it another way, Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will guide us toward perfect hope and peace because our minds are riveted to his mind. "Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).

Prayer:

Guide us, O Lord, that we may know Jesus, the price of hope and peace—the cure for a blood-soaked world. In Jesus' Name. Amen.