

Pope Leo XIV, during his first appearance on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica after his election, on May 8, 2025, 250K people attending, delivered a message of peace:

**“Peace be with all of you,”** – *“La Pace sia con tutti voi”* said in Italian, the new pope from America, as he appeared at the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica. He said: *“Dearest brothers and sisters, this was the first greeting of the risen Christ, the Good Shepherd, who gave his life for God’s flock. I, too, would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families, to reach all people, wherever they may be, all people, the whole earth. “Peace be with you”*

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells us: **“My peace I give you”**- Not like the peace world gives you.

Friends, we are all peace lovers and called to be peacemakers. We want to live a life of peace and joy. What is the difference between the ‘peace that the world can offer’ and “peace that Jesus offers? According to the world’s understanding, peace is primarily the absence of trouble. This is not what is intended by Jesus when he says, *“my peace I give you’*.

Peace is above all, *the presence of the risen Lord in your Life*. It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It emerges from unity between God’s will and your will. It is also called, *‘serenity of mind, tranquility of soul, simplicity of heart, the bond of love, the fellowship of charity’*.

The peace that the risen Christ offers, as pope Leo affirms, is a peace that is ‘unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. It comes from God; God who loves all of us unconditionally, God cares for us even in the midst of trouble: Eg: Getsemani experience of Jesus. “Peace of Jesus is the union of his will with the will of the Father”.

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