

Prayers for Jerusalem and the Holy Land Sunday

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada are invited to use the following prayers and pray for peace in Jerusalem and the Holy Land on the Seventh Sunday in Easter—May 8, 2016.

PRAYERS:

Let us pray to God, the Holy Spirit, saying; **Come, Holy Spirit, Come**

Come, Holy Spirit: hear us as we pray for the Church here and everywhere. For our Bishops and leaders, for our Clergy and teachers, for the Anglican Communion around the world and, particularly today, for the church in Jerusalem, for both Archbishop Suheil and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and Bishop Munib and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and The Holy land, that all may proclaim your word of peace and reconciliation.
Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Come, Holy Spirit: hear us as we pray for justice and peace on earth. For leaders of this country of Canada and for leaders of all nations, particularly remembering today Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. May peace and harmony abundantly bless these achingly beautiful and historic places of your Creation, O God. *Come, Holy Spirit, Come.*

Come, Holy Spirit: hear us as we pray for the holy city of Jerusalem. Bring to those who lead Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities a spirit of cooperation and collaboration as this ancient and blessed city continues to be 'holy' for us all. *Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

From: Dean Peter Wall, Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton, Diocese of Niagara, ACC

God of love,

We pray for peace and for the well-being of the whole human family in Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

In the midst of political and religious divisions and conflicts, we ask that your Holy Spirit would gather these peoples, as descendants of Abraham and Sarah, in understanding, acceptance and love.

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We ask that your grace would inform the thoughts and actions of leaders, and that all citizens would seek to act with forgiveness and forbearance.

Renew our commitment to be voices for peace in the Holy Land.

Renew our zeal to work with such partners as care for the peoples of an ancient land, whether Christian, Jewish, Muslim or other.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

From: Rev. André Lavergne, Assistant to the Bishop, Ecumenical and Interfaith, ELCIC

In our prayers on this "Jerusalem and the Holy Land Sunday"

Let us begin in prayer for a land...

a land hallowed by the revelation of God through the ages

a land bounded by an expanse of sea and the silence of desert

a narrow land, at a crossroads of continents

a land of milk and honey

where the eternal Word of God, was heard, witnessed and known.

Let us pray for this land called "holy"

and for the multitudes of our world

who look to it

as the place of their spiritual origin, return, and culmination;

Jew, Muslim, and Christian.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the peoples of this land

all its peoples;

in their history and yearnings, in their hopes and aspirations,

and join them in their prayers for peace

Let us hold them with the summons of the Hebrew poet,

to pray for the peace of Jerusalem

but let us pray, not just for peace,

let us pray for a just peace

let us pray for what can seem impossible

a peace that may arise from justice, freedoms, healing and reconciliation,

a peace born of stirring mutual regard and generous co-existence.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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Let us pray for the peace-makers

for all in positions of responsibility and influence,
in the countries of the Middle East and throughout our world,
that their words and actions, emboldened by the Spirit
might beat the swords into ploughshares
and the land be furrowed for the human dignity of all.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us, (on this Jerusalem and the Holy Land Sunday) pray for the witness of the Church in this land
For the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem,
our brothers and sisters in Christ, serving across this region
in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories,
that they might be strengthened in their commitment to foster healing,
reconciliation, education and faithful witness to the Risen Christ.

Let us pray for Archbishop Suheil Dawani, his clergy and staff, and the ministries
extended by the diocese through multiple of schools, hospitals, clinics and
homes for the aging.

Let us pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, for
Bishop Munib Younan, and the witness of his diocese, his clergy and people.

Let us pray for a church that is Palestinian and Arab, in its life and witness to Jesus.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

(other biddings of matters local are then added)

From: Canon Dr. Richard LeSueur, Rector, St. George the Martyr Cadboro Bay, Diocese of British Columbia, ACC

God of peace, encourage those who seek to establish a fair and just peace in the
Middle East. Bless their efforts as they work to end conflict. Lead those who engage in
violence to put down their weapons and to live in peace with one another.

God of justice, bless those who work for peace through justice. Strengthen their resolve
in the face of seemingly endless violence.

Guide the leaders of the peoples of the Middle East to know your will and to support a
just peace for all of your children.

God of love, lifting up the holy land for all humankind, breathe love and compassion into our prayers with a desire for nothing other than peace: peace in our hearts, peace for all creation, and especially peace in the land that is called holy.

God of hope, we lift up the city of Jerusalem, distracted and divided, yet still filled with promise as all the cities of the world.

Come again into our cities, places of worship, Upper Rooms and Gethsemanes, that we may be given sight to recognise you.

God of mercy, even as we long to understand that which is often beyond our comprehension, we lay before you the hearts, minds and bodies of all those suffering from conflict in Palestine and Israel and from the ongoing occupation. Shower upon all the people of the Holy Land the spirit of justice and reconciliation.

God of the nations, give to all our people the blessings of well-being, freedom, and harmony, and, above all things, give us faith in you that we may be strengthened to care for all those in need until the coming of your son, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

From: ACT Palestine: Christian AID UK

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/prayer/world-week-peace-palestine-israel.aspx>

Prayer and Current News

You may prefer to have a time of silence and free prayer, with petitions relevant to the current news. Some suggestions are given below:

- Pray for Palestinian children on their way to school, that they may be safe and not afflicted by military or settler assaults.
- Pray for those held in Israeli prisons, especially minors, that they will be comforted.
- Pray for the parents of Palestinian prisoners, and the parents of young Israelis undergoing military service. Pray also for young Israelis in prison for refusing to do military service, who have no right of conscientious objection.
- Pray for those who must queue at checkpoints, struggle with unjust court decisions, and confront daily intimidation and insult, merely so they can live in their own homes and tend their own land.

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- Pray for all, Palestinians and Israelis, who live with the threat of violence and the fear of the other.
- Pray for all refugees: Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, in Jordan and Lebanon; pray especially for those Palestinian refugees from Syria, once again forced to flee, and for all refugees from conflict in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East.

(End with a period of silence)

May our silence speak the peace of God.
May our silence sing the peace of God.
May our silence bring about the peace of God.
Amen.

Closing Responses

Pray not for Arab or Jew,
for Palestinian or Israeli,
but pray rather for ourselves,
that we might not
divide them in our prayers
but keep them both together
in our hearts.

When races fight,
peace be among us.
When neighbours argue,
peace be among us.
When nations disagree,
peace be among us.
Where people struggle for justice,
let justice prevail.
Where Christ's disciples follow,
let peace be our way.
Amen.

In addition, **ACT Palestine** offers the following two scripture texts, which might be useful to include with other liturgical resources on the site.

(from Psalm 122)

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.'
For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'peace be within you.'
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

(James 3, 13–18)

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.