



ELCIC

*In Mission
for Others*

Prayers for the Holy Land for use on the 2nd Sunday in Lent

Dates for Lent 2: 2010 — Feb. 28 2011 — March 20 2012 — March 4

Suggested prayers from the ELCIC Program Committee for Worship (PCW):

Holy God, Sovereign of the universe, we pray for the peace of the Middle East and of the whole world which you love so much. We pray especially for the city of peace, Jerusalem, Jeru-Shalom, Jeru-Salaam, holy city to Christians and Jews and Muslims, a city which knows too little peace. *God, in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

Holy One, merciful and compassionate, long ago, with love greater than the love of any human parent, you made a covenant with Abraham; all his children, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, contend for Jerusalem. By your grace, may all see that the city, the land, and the world, is yours, not ours, and so help us to make the holy city finally a city of peace. *God, in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

Holy Jesus, merciful and compassionate, you walked the streets of the city, you wept for the city, you died for the city, and you rose again for the city and for the world. We pray for all your disciples who live now in and around the city, who seek to live as your faithful people. Today we lift up to you our sisters and brothers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, its bishop, Munib Younan, all its pastors and congregations and ministries, including the schools, the Bethlehem International Centre, and the Environmental Education Centre in Beit Jala. May our love, our prayers, our partnership, inspire them to continue to work for peace with justice for all. May their faithfulness inspire us in our own discipleship. *God, in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

Holy Christ, merciful and compassionate, we pray also for the work of the Lutheran World Federation in Jerusalem and Israel/Palestine, especially for Pastor Mark Brown, LWF Regional Representative, the Vocational Training Program, Mount of Olives Housing Project, and many other projects, including especially the Augusta Victoria Hospital, its Executive Director, Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, and all the staff, and for the International Volunteers of Canadian Lutheran World Relief at the hospital, Gil and Fran Schultz. *God, in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

Holy Saviour, merciful and compassionate, we pray for the Episcopal, or Anglican, Diocese of Jerusalem, its bishop, Suheil Dawani, and all its people, congregations, and ministries. We lift up to you also all our sister and brothers in Christ, of every Christian tradition, who live in the land holy to so many. We ask that they, along with people of faith and goodwill of every faith tradition, Jewish, Muslim, Druze, Bahai, and many others, may work together for the peace of Jerusalem, for peace and security for Israel and its people, for peace and security for Palestine and its people, for peace with justice for all, in your holy land. *God, in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

Holy Spirit, merciful and compassionate, with the Father and Son you are Sovereign of the Universe forever. Be sovereign also in our hearts, and in the hearts of all people, moving us, moving the world, moving all people to peace, peace in our hearts, peace in Jerusalem, and peace with justice for all in Israel and Palestine, peace for Jew, peace for Muslim, peace for Christian, peace for every human being and for the land itself. *God, in your mercy, HEAR OUR PRAYER.*

-Prayers written for PCW by Rev. Paul Johnson

(Continued...)



Prayers from other churches in the Lutheran World Federation and ecumenical partners:

From the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL):

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.” (Isaiah 12:2)

Heavenly Father, we praise you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ,
to be born in Bethlehem to become one of us.

As we [this Christmas again] thank and praise you for the birth of your Son,
we find ourselves in the midst of violence, bloodshed, and hatred
that seem to have no end.

We feel helpless in front of the political and military might of this world.
We look around us and find no salvation in human beings,
but only in our incarnated Lord.

[As we join the shepherds of Beit Sahour and the Magi of the East in finding your salvation in the
Holy Child in the manger,]

we pray that your presence will be seen and felt among us in these days of destruction and death.

We ask you to cleanse our hearts from bitterness and hatred,
and from frustration and fear.

Make us all turn to you with repentance and fill us with trust and confidence in you,
who is our salvation.

We pray that all our suffering will bring us closer to you,
and make us grow in faith and trust in you, and in love towards all our neighbours.

Send your Holy Spirit to comfort the bereaved families,
to bring recovery to the injured and disabled,

and to change the hearts of all of us to make us see

that your will in the Holy Land is that Palestinians and Israelis live justly and equally together.

Change the minds of the politicians so that they may turn the swords into ploughshares.

Bless your Church to be your instrument for peace,

bringing comfort to the afflicted, promoting justice for the weak and dispossessed,
and witnessing your love to all people.

In Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

- ELCJHL Bishop Munib Younan

From the German-language, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem

A Collect

You, Oh God of justice and peace,
you have promised your land peace
and you assured that its inhabitants shall live with security.

Yet still there is hatred and violence
and we vacillate between helplessness and hasty judgements.

Therefore we petition you for Israel and Palestine and for ourselves:

Grant that all to whom responsibility is given,
recognise and enact that which serves peace and justice.

Let us strive for what you have promised to all people.

Through you Son, Jesus Christ, our Brother and Lord,

Amen.

- Translation Rev. Eric Dyck

(Continued...)



A Palestinian Litany from ELCJHL:

Almighty and Eternal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we glorify and praise you.
You are our only refuge in this troubled world.
We glorify and praise you, our God.

Merciful God, in the birth of your Son Jesus Christ in Bethlehem, you became one of us, sharing and understanding our humanity, our suffering and our problems.
We glorify and praise you, our God.

We thank you that you took refuge in Egypt, identifying yourself with all who are refugees and victims of political power.
We thank you, our God.

We thank you that you grew up in Nazareth and ministered to the people in Galilee, and spread your kingdom in a new way.
We thank you, our God.

We thank you that you were crucified in Jerusalem, identifying yourself with every person who suffers and lives under occupation and injustice. On the cross you carried the sin and the suffering of all human beings and reconciled us with you and with our fellow human beings.
We thank you, our God.

Our heavenly Father, we come before you with all the troubles and pains we are experiencing here in the Middle East.
Lord, have mercy on us.

We pray for all victims of injustice and violence in the present situation. We pray also for those who are responsible for injustice and all the forms of violence.
Lord, have mercy on us.

We pray for our labourers who cannot enter to their places of work. We pray for our youth who are losing their hope for the future.
Lord, have mercy on us.

We pray for our mothers who are fed up with bloodshed, killing and the use of arms. We pray for bereaved families who lost their dear ones. We pray for the quick recovery of the injured. We especially pray for those who have to live with permanent disability.
Lord, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our Saviour, our eyes look to you, our only help in these troubled times.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray that you open the eyes of the world, and of Israelis and Palestinians, for justice and reconciliation. Help us to see that the security and freedom of the one people is dependent on the security and freedom of the other.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for politicians that they may realize that the security and peace we all long for will not come by the use of arms and force, but by doing justice so that the two peoples can reconcile and together work out an equitable co-existence for the future.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you have called us to be your followers. Give us your love for our fellow human beings. Free us, and our children, from hatred, bitterness, and the denying of the rights of others; and fill us with love, truth, and justice, so that we can recognize and respect the dignity and the rights of one another.
Lord, hear our prayer.

(Continued...)



Lord Jesus, you have shown us that forgiveness is not forgetting one's rights but asserting them. We know that forgiving is to see Christ in our enemies and to love them as our neighbours. Help us who are Palestinian to see you in Israelis, and Israelis to see you in us. Lead us all to affirm and respect that our humanity is a gift from you, as we are all created in your image. Give us courage to mutually recognize each other's human, religious, civil and political rights.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, giver of life and new beginnings, help us to faithfully respond to God's call to be ministers of reconciliation.
Come, Holy Spirit, renew us all.

Help us to find ways of encouraging people to open their hearts and confess their part in the past injustices and find ways to build a just and secure future for our children. Give us wisdom and courage in this difficult task. When the pressures of the situation make us despair, come with your Holy Spirit and renew our strength and hope.
Come, Holy Spirit, renew us all.

Sustain with your power those, who in the midst of all difficulties, are building quietly the culture of reconciliation, justice and peace. They may not be many right now, but we remember that the work for God's kingdom among us, started with only a handful of faithful and committed people.
Come, Holy Spirit, renew us all.

Come, Healing Spirit, and change us and open ways for us to change others. Remove all injustice and fill our land with a just peace. Remove all hatred and fill us all with true love.
Come, Holy Spirit, renew us all.

Remove all insecurity and bring in real security. Remove all occupation and bring in freedom for all.
Come, Holy Spirit, renew us all.

Merciful God, accept our prayer and yearning. You are the only strength we have. No one can take the power of prayer away from us. In the name of Jesus - our Liberator and Redeemer - we pray.
Amen.

- ELCJHL Bishop Munib Younan

From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA):

Adaptation of the El'Anu Prayer

May the time not be distant, O Lord,
when your name shall come to be worshiped
in all the earth,
when unbelief shall disappear and error be no more.
Lord, in your mercy

Fervently we pray that the day may come
when all shall turn to you in love,
when corruption and evil
shall give way to integrity and goodness,
Lord, in your mercy

We pray for that day
when superstition shall no longer enslave the mind,
nor idolatry blind the eye,
when all shall know that you alone are God.
Lord, in your mercy

We pray with all our hearts:
let violence be gone.

(Continued...)



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Let the day come
when evil shall give way to goodness:
when war shall be forgotten
and hunger be no more
and all at last will live in freedom.
Lord, in your mercy

O may we, created in your image
become one in spirit and one in friendship,
forever united in your service.
Then will your kingdom be established on earth
and the word of your prophets fulfilled.
Lord, in your mercy

Eternal God,
in whose perfect kingdom
no sword is drawn
but the sword of righteousness,
no strength is known but the strength of love;
So mightily spread abroad your spirit,
that all peoples may be gathered
under the banner of the prince of peace,
as children of one father;
To whom be dominion and glory,
now and forever.

- Reworking of Shabat El'Anu prayer of reformed Judaism by Rev. Tom Shelley

A Prayer of Sarah and Hagar

God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar are crying for their children.
Violence is bearing the fruit of fear among the offspring of Hagar, once again.
The tears of the innocent stain the land of Palestine.
We intercede on behalf of the homeless, the displaced, the powerless,
and all in Palestine who live in fear.
Comfort those who mourn,
bring your healing power to those who suffer brokenness,
and above all, send forth your peace to this land.
Amen.

From the United States National Inter-religious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East:

God of mercy and compassion,
of grace and reconciliation,
pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East:
Jews, Muslims and Christians,
Palestinians and Israelis.
Let hatred be turned into love,
fear to trust,
despair to hope,
oppression to freedom,
occupation to liberation,
that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces,
and peace and justice could be experienced by all.
Amen.

- Rev. Said Ailabouni

(Continued...)



From the Mennonite Church USA:

O God, who breaks down the walls of enmity,
we give thanks that your reconciling Spirit is at work
among Israeli Jews and Palestinian Christians
and Muslims who work for justice and peace.

We join our prayers with the prayers of the churches in Palestine/Israel
against walls and fences that are segregating Palestinians from Israelis
and that mean that Palestinians are separated from land and water, work and school.
In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who has broken down the dividing wall,
we pray. Amen.

- Alain Epp Weaver