

Jerusalem and Holy Land Sunday Worship
Resources: Sentences, Prayers and Hymns

Sentences

Blessed is the one whose strength is in you, O God, Whose heart is set on the pilgrim way.

—*Psalm 84:5*

I was glad when they said unto me “Let us go into the house of the Lord” And now our feet are standing within your gates O Jerusalem.”

—*Psalm 122:2*

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may they prosper who love you!

—*Psalm 122.6*

Prayers

Prayer for Jerusalem Sunday

Written by the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz

O God, we give thanks that your dear Son has gathered us in the embrace of his redeeming love and sent us to make that love known to the ends of the earth.

We pray your continued blessings on the steadfast witness of the Church in Jerusalem and throughout the Middle East.

Give your deep joy to those who welcome the pilgrims seeking to know this land and its many peoples.

Grace those who proclaim the Gospel.

Guide all who teach a new generation of young people.

Draw near to those who are sick and bless those who tend them.

Sustain the hope in all who long and labour for a just and lasting peace in the land of The Holy One.

And may the companions of Jerusalem be many and faithful.

We pray in the name of our merciful Saviour, Friend, and Brother, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Written by Bishop John Chapman for 2021, updated for 2023

Blessed are you Lord our God creator of the universe,
you give us the gift of faith, so that we might live in the hope and promise of your strength
and presence in all things.

You give us the heritage and obedience of our patriarchs and matriarchs, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel, the prophet Miriam, Moses, and all the prophets, steadfast and faithful stewards of your will, witnesses to your saving presence in all generations.

You give us the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ so that we might be pure in heart, loved, forgiven.

You gift us the gift of your Holy Spirit which blows where it cannot be shut, filling the hearts of the baptised and all those who seek the Lord.

While we as children of Jesus, our mother and father, are small in number, you give us courageous hearts and a determined spirit as we seek peace and justice for all God's children, and especially the children of the Diocese of Jerusalem.

You give us the desire and courage to seek justice and peace among all nations, particularly this day in the Land of the Holy One and *the city of our living God, the heavenly Jerusalem:*

“... pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
*May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls,
And security within your towers.”*

You give us faithful residents and pilgrims who gather each day in the Holy City and in the churches, pilgrimage sites and communities that surround the Holy City, Thanking God for God's presence and our redemption through our Lord Jesus Christ.

You give us faithful bishops in the Diocese of Jerusalem; Archbishop Hosam Naoum; in the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, Bishop Ibrahim Azar; who remind us constantly of our need to give thanks for God's presence and blessing.

You give us the awareness and appreciation that the prayers of the faithful are to be expressed in action and holy work.

You give us people who do not merely consider peace, the hungry, and those experiencing injustice; but rather protect the disenfranchised and nourish the hungry with their own hands.

You give us all those who need our attention and our prayers.

You give us the baptised everywhere who gather for Eucharist, mission and teaching, especially those gathered this morning as we celebrate together the ministry of our sister Diocese of Jerusalem.

Blessed are you Lord our God,
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Litany A

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may they prosper who love you! (Psalm 122.6) 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 Archbishop Hosam Naoum, and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and Bishop Ibrahim Azar and the Synod of 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

Come, Holy Spirit, be with all those in need. We pray for victims of war and violence, for refugees and prisoners, for all who are afflicted or oppressed, that they may be held in your healing power. We pray for those who have died . . . that they may live eternally in God's presence, and for those who mourn, that they may be comforted.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come

(add other local biddings)

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our risen and ascended Lord. **Amen.**

Litany B

In thanksgiving, let us offer our prayers to the source of all love and life, saying, "We give you thanks, O Lord God."

For the Anglican Church of Canada and the Anglican Communion of which we are a part, for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, for our Full Communion partner the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and for the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, for their faithful witness in a difficult time and for their commitment to peace and reconciliation, and today, for the ministries of all who give witness through the materiality of faith—clergy and caregivers, physicians, nurses and health practitioners, teachers, researchers, administrators, organizers and more.

We give you thanks, O Lord God.

For the ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem, for institutions of education and healing, especially the sacrificial service of the Al Ahli Arab Hospital Gaza, for ministries of witness and reconciliation, of the work of peace-making and service to those in need,
We give you thanks, O Lord God.

For the beauty of the land of the Holy One, for the generous hospitality of the Christian community, for opportunities to share our stories and walk together on our pilgrim journey,
We give you thanks, O Lord God.

For all the blessings of this life, for strength in adversity, for comfort in sorrow, for grace to serve,
We give you thanks, O Lord God.

For the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray,
We give thanks, O Lord God. Amen.

A Jerusalem Prayer

From the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem
For the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel 2011

Almighty and Merciful God, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, you gathered the first Christians in Jerusalem. Grant that, like the first church of Jerusalem, we may come together, and with courage, we may preach and live the Word, and the good news of truth, reconciliation, and peace.

God Creator, Giver of Life, Bearer of Pain, Initiator of Love, you made the world and everything in it. You created the human race in your image and likeness, and gave us the earth for all to share. Break down the walls that separate us.

God of Justice, your generosity is without bounds. Guard us from selfishness; inspire us to be instruments of love, and witnesses of your mercy and justice. Help us to face challenges and to struggle against all that is born of injustice. Lead us to act together in places and situations of want and need: where families are driven from their homes, where the vulnerable suffer in the hands of the powerful, where poverty and unemployment destroy lives.

God of Hope, you continue to call us to work for Peace in our world, broken and wounded by injustice, violence, and indifference. Alone, we are overwhelmed by challenges but together, and inspired by your Spirit, we can prevail beyond dreams and imagination. In fear we lose hope, and feel the futility of our efforts. Instill in our hearts and minds the image of your suffering and compassionate love as a source of courage and strength.

God, Protector of the widow, the orphan and the stranger, in a world where many know despair, you raised your Son Jesus Christ to give hope for humanity and renewal to the earth. Strengthen and unify your Church against the forces of evil in this part of the world, where aggression of all forms, killings and the blood of martyrs shed even in places of worship, obscure the hope of a new life.

God of Peace and Mercy, inspire nations to transform oppression and violence into freedom and peace for the sake of the poor, the vulnerable and the broken-hearted. Help us to respect and promote the equality and dignity of all, particularly in your Holy Land. Grant discernment to leaders and legislators, that righteousness and truth may flourish among all peoples throughout the world.

Psalm Prayers from the BAS

Lord Jesus, give us the peace of the new Jerusalem. Bring all nations into your kingdom to share your gifts, that they may render thanks to you without end and may come to your eternal city, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.** (Psalm 122)

God of eternal light, open our eyes to the vision of your holy city coming down from heaven; make our hearts sensitive to your presence, and our wills eager to join in the comfort and healing you bring to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.** (Psalm 87)

God of pilgrims, strengthen our faith, we pray. Guide us through the uncertainties of our journey, and hold before us the vision of your eternal kingdom, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** (Psalm 78)

Hymns

From Common Praise:

- CP 278 Jerusalem the Golden
- CP 472 Let There Be Light
- CP 575 Let Streams of Living Justice
- CP 418 Draw The Circle Wide
- CP 576 For the Healing of the Nations
- CP 388 Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken (.. Zion city of our God..)
- CP 596 O Holy City Seen of John
- CP 157 Rise Up and Shine

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

- When Pain of the World Surrounds Us
- To Be Your Presence
- Jerusalem, My Happy Home

From other sources:

- Sent By The Lord Am I (Iona Community, GIA Publications)
- Lord, When You Came to the Seashore (Gather 781)
- Christ, Be Our Light (Gather 590)



Anglican Church of Canada

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