## Resources for the National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holy Land

Prayer for Justice and Peace in the Holy Lands

Salt + Light Media

Lord our God, author of life and giver of peace, the tragic events unfolding in Iraq, Syria, Israel and Palestine pain us. We know that violence is not conquered by violence. We remember all those forced from their homes in Iraq. We entrust to Your loving kindness those who have lost everything in Gaza. We commend to Your mercy those who have suffered violence and death in Syria. We ask Your protection for the people of the land of Israel. They are all our brothers and sisters and they depend on us. Teach us to live in solidarity with all those who suffer. Let justice and peace rain down upon Your people living in the land of Abraham and in all of the lands we call holy. Together with us, Jews and Muslims also look to the person of Abraham as a model of unconditional submission to the will of God. Watch over those who have lost faith and hope. Comfort the sick, the imprisoned and all who suffer. Console those whom mourn the loss of loved ones. Grant shelter to those who have lost their homes and lands. Watch over the church's pastors and the entire community of believers who live in Your lands. In the church we are all members of a single body, all mutually necessary, because each has been given a grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ, for the common good. May Mary, the Mother of Jesus, help us to understand and live every day the fraternity that springs up from the heart of her Son, so as to bring peace to each person on this our beloved earth especially in Your own lands. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Prayer inspired by St. John Paul II and Pope Francis* slmedia.org/blog/prayer-for-justice-and-peace-in-the-holy-lands



**Together:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Holy God holy and strong holy and immortal have mercy upon us.

Reading 1: Mt 5.2-10 Kingdom People Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## Reading 2:

Before the throne of grace (Heb 4.16) we hold before the Lord our brothers and sisters in Christ, their priests, and all who minister in the churches of the Holy Land. We pray for community leaders; the young, their parents and teachers; the sick and medical practitioners; refugees and all who have lost hope. We pray for those holding political power in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel, Gaza and Jordan.

**Reader 3:** Lord Jesus, Teacher, Healer and Saviour whose kingdom will know no end, empower with Your Spirit our brothers and sisters in faith in the land You made holy. Make them strong in faith, hope and love. May they know Your presence and peace, as Your Light pierces the darkness that cannot overcome it. Uphold them in Your service, for the good of all their neighbours and to the glory of Your holy name. Bless the work of friends of the Holy Land: enlighten our vision, empower our partnership and make us bearers of good news, for the sake of Your holy name. Amen.

**Together:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Reader 4:** Almighty Father, faithful God, bless our brothers and sisters in the land of the Holy One. Grant peace in that land, peace in their homes and peace in their hearts. Inspire the friends of the Holy Land to build on Your foundations of justice, mercy and peace, as partners with our Christian brothers and sisters. Give to pilgrims a new vision of Your Kingdom, fill them with compassion and love. Keep the cries of this land in our hearts. This we pray in the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ. Amen. **Together:** Come Holy Spirit, lead us all in the ways of peace. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

friendsoftheholyland.org.uk/library-of-prayers