

## Ash Wednesday

### The Prayers of the People

(Adapted from *Intercessions for the Christian People* - Gail Ramshaw, editor)  
**During Lent the Holy Landers Ministry Network offers these Prayers of the People to pray for all people and especially for the people of our Holy Land served by the ministries of the *American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)* and *Jerusalem Peacebuilders (JPB)*.**

*Deacon:* Our compassionate and yet all-powerful God has called us to repentance. May our prayers and our fasting assist us in coming before God with pure hearts and minds, open to the ways of peace and reconciliation. This Lent we lift up the peoples of all lands and particularly those of our Holy Land, the place where Jesus and the disciples walked, lived and taught. Today is the acceptable time; let us pray, saying: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

*Intercessor:* For all Christians and pilgrims everywhere, that embracing their Lenten discipline with joy, the cross of Christ may be their banner and the pledge of resurrection their hope. May they deepen understanding of our Holy Land and be open to *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* work toward creating a better future for humanity across religions, cultures, and nationalities, we pray:

***Lord, make us instruments of your peace.***

For those preparing for baptism, that their observance of the Lenten season strengthen their resolve to receive God's gift of new life. Remembering your own baptism in the River Jordan—a place of life giving waters that continue to bless pilgrims in our time, we pray:

***Lord, make us instruments of your peace.***

For our young people, and for young people participating in the work of *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* that programs continue to teach a way of finding dignity for all with mutual acceptance and trust-building. May they find Lent a time of profound renewal and Easter a season of unsurpassing joy, we pray:

***Lord, make us instruments of your peace.***

For our parish concerns, for the concerns of Christians everywhere; especially those of the parishes in the Diocese of Jerusalem and their *AFEDJ* partners, this week particularly for St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, and St. Paul's Church, Jerusalem; that we remember the needs of others as we purify our own hearts and minds, we pray:

***Lord, make us instruments of your peace.***

For this assembly, that as we celebrate our union with Christ in this holy meal we may not grow weary of proclaiming his saving death and resurrection to the whole world, we pray:

***Lord, make us instruments of your peace.***

For those who suffer from illness, especially the elderly, the most vulnerable, the poor, the lonely, and all who have commended themselves to us for prayer, [*especially today for N.*], we pray. We lift up the Diocese of Jerusalem's schools, hospitals, clinics, and centers for children with disabilities that serve people of all religions, ethnicities, and financial means, with dignity and respect. We pray for them, for their *AFEDJ* partners who help support them, and for all who are in need that they may receive the consolation of knowing the love of their crucified Savior:

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

***Lord, make us instruments of your peace.***

For all who have died [*especially N.*], for those who have perished seeking your peace among peoples and among lands and among nations, we pray:

***Lord, make us instruments of your peace.***

*Celebrant:* O God, as you called the Israelites to repent of their sins, so now you call us to fasting and prayer, in repentance for wandering from you. Never let us lose our way, and guide us during our Lenten journey that we arrive at the Easter Vigil, ready once more to celebrate our passage with Christ from death to life, from despair to hope, trusting in the life of Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***