

2017 Prayers of the People – Year A – Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

Ash Wednesday

The Prayers of the People

(Adapted from *Intercessions for the Christian People* - Gail Ramshaw, editor)

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, 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 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.***

First Sunday in Lent

The Prayers of the People

(Adapted from *Intercessions for the Christian People* - Gail Ramshaw, editor)

Deacon: Our great God has formed the dust of our being in the midst of the waters of creation. Let us adore the Righteous One, saying: O God, feed us with mercy: where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Intercessor: For the Tree of Golgotha, our true tree of life, by whose just fruit we live, the church worships you, O God. We pray for churches that sustain life everywhere, for parishes in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, for parishes around our country, for parishes throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem and today for St. Andrew's Church, Ramallah, and Good Shepherd Church, Rafidia. May your people ever praise and serve you and all the world's people. O God, feed us with mercy:

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

O God of the seas and rains, we praise you for watering and sustaining all things living. We bless you for the waters flowing from Jesus' pierced side. Give to all candidates of baptism, and to all the baptized, the sure hope of your grace. O God, feed us with mercy:

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Send us to the nations where there is a famine of the word; show us those who await the bread of life; and confront us with those who suffer in hunger and with those who live in the most volatile places on earth. May our abundance supply their need. We particularly ask your blessings on the Diocese of Jerusalem's education and healthcare ministries that often are the only providers for the poor, disabled and vulnerable people of the region. O God, feed us with mercy:

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Lord and judge of all, confirm what is good and just in the hearts of those who rule the nations in our world, in our native land and in our Holy Land. Make all in authority to govern in justice the peoples whom you have made, especially those in war torn and terror filled locations. May the Israeli, Palestinian, and American youth and adults who prepare through *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* become future leaders for peace in the global community. Guide them and us all to join the quest for peace. O God, feed us with mercy:

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

For all who desire wisdom, for all who need hands to bear them up, for the naked and the outcast, for the sick and the dying, for all those who have commended themselves to us for any need, [*especially N.*]. For all in need of your gift of

abundant health throughout our world, particularly the Diocese of Jerusalem institutions of St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus, Palestine, and Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, Gaza, who care for all regardless of religious, ethnic, or economic background, we pray for your mercy:

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

For all who need protection as they work in harm's way, [*especially N.*], grant them a safe haven and give them strength as they serve for the greater good of humankind. Help us along with *Jerusalem Peacebuilders'* work in the Middle East to promote peace instead of violence, love not hate, freedom over closure, and leadership in the midst of fear, we pray for your mercy:

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

For all who have died, [*especially N.*], that they be granted an entrance into the land of light and joy, we pray for your mercy:

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Celebrant: For all the holy people before us who served you as their only wisdom amid life's temptations, we give you thanks, O God. Give your holy angels charge over us, and bring us who live in the wilderness of time from the waters of baptism into the garden of your great love, where we will be no longer in hunger, but filled with your life forever, through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Second Sunday in Lent

The Prayers of the People

(Adapted from *Intercessions for the Christian People* - Gail Ramshaw, editor)

Deacon: Let us come before God in this Lententide, praising and blessing and adoring our everliving God, saying: In your glorious mercy, Lord, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

Intercessor: O God, who spoke through the prophets and who lives in the only begotten one, show to your church all things. Make us hear your purpose and receive your grace; confirm in your truth all the baptized, especially our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, our Bishops Ian and Laura, Archbishop Suheil Dawani of the Diocese of Jerusalem, all bishops and clergy, theologians and teachers, mystics and martyrs. Strengthen all of your churches to witness in your love, especially remembering Holy Land churches of St. Peter's Church in Birzeit and St. Phillip Church in Nablus. In your glorious mercy:

Lord, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

Lord of promise and deliverance, we thank you for birthing us in the waters of baptism and for drowning our death in your unending life. We beg that your love well up within us, that our whole lives may worship you and our hearts be changed to love one another. Support the young people learning through *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* and *Kids4Peace* to light candles of new leadership for tomorrow, forming life-long friendships across their differences. In your glorious mercy:

Lord, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

God of the people of Israel, Sovereign of every nation, grant your vision of mercy and justice to all who rule in the earth. Prosper the labors of those seeking peace. Guide the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem's schools that are educating the next generation of leaders in our Holy Land with strong Christian ethics and the tools to achieve lasting peace. Assist all who work for reconciliation in the streets and for reformation in prisons. In your glorious mercy:

Lord, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

O Holy One with the pierced limbs and side, bind us to all those who suffer. Keep us mindful of all innocent victims, all the oppressed, all the dying, all who live in our Holy Land who are divided by walls and restricted to move about freely. Reveal to us those who are despised, the outcast, the alien, the forlorn. Look upon the sick and all who have commended themselves to us for any need, [especially *N.*]. Summon us to restlessness until all who suffer find rest from their sorrow. In your glorious mercy:

Lord, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

O God, the Protector of all your children, we offer into your care all who are in harm's way, [especially *N.*], that they be protected and strengthened wherever they are. Continue to guide the work of *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* in Jerusalem-area high schools through their Israeli and Palestinian partnerships, offering teen leaders the skills, relationships and support needed to advance peace. In your glorious mercy: ***Lord, where there is darkness, let us sow light.***

O God, the Comforter of all who grieve and mourn, we remember all who have died, [especially *N.*], that they be granted an entrance into the land of light and joy. In your glorious mercy: ***Lord, where there is darkness, let us sow light.***

Celebrant: God of Abraham and Sarah, the great *I AM*, we give you thanks for the signs of your radiant presence in the faith of our forebears. Bless us with awe to receive their testimony and your yearning for peace. Give the families and children of the Holy Land a reason to hope, letting them know they are not forgotten. Transfigure us by the gift of faith for our life's journey, until we behold face to face your glorious beauty, through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Third Sunday in Lent

The Prayers of the People

(Adapted from *Intercessions for the Christian People* - Gail Ramshaw, editor)

Deacon: We have been birthed for holiness in Christ, by whose arduous labor we are awakened to life. That the wounds of our crucified Christ may not be in vain, let us pray to the Lord, saying: Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

Intercessor: For the whole church catholic, for an end to our divisions, for all who lead and all who minister, and for all the baptized, especially remembering in the Diocese of Jerusalem cycle of prayer St. Matthew's Church in Zababdeh and St. Paul's Church in Shefa'amr, we pray:

Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

For all who seek the living waters of baptism, and for all sponsors, we pray:

Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

For the nations, for peacemakers, for all the world's peoples, for the governing authorities in every city and state, and for the wealthy and free to uplift the poor and oppressed, for the humanitarian work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem that touches thousands of lives each year and reaches across religious, ethnic, and political boundaries, we pray:

Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

For the will to give all your people access to your grace, and for the will to supply food and sustenance to all the world's people, we pray:

Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

For all whom we avoid, those we consider ungodly, the outcasts and beggars, the downtrodden, for our enemies, for all who live in conflicted and complicated lands like our Holy Land who may be forgotten or misunderstood. For young Israeli and Palestinian and American youth diplomats developing their leadership and peacebuilding skills through *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* Summer Youth Institutes.

For an end to our hardness of heart, we pray:

Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

For all who yearn for health, for children and adults with mental and physical disabilities that are often cast off, for those in spiritual turmoil, for the incurably ill, and for all who remember and care for them. For the work of hospitals such as St. Luke's in Nablus, Palestine that provides a prominent Christian presence in an area where few Christian families remain and treats all patients with dignity and respect, we pray:

Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

For hearts to do what is good and right and true, and for humility before Christ, that we may never murmur against you, O holy God. For Jewish, Christian, and Muslim teens who learn how to respectfully debate and explore together issues involving Holy Land sites, education, incitement, the Palestinian Partition Plan of 1947 and the 1973 Yom Kippur War, that they may pave a way toward peace, we pray:

Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

For all the sick and those who have commended themselves to us for any need, [especially *N.*], we pray:

Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

For all men and women who serve in harm's way, seeking freedom and peace, [especially *N.*], and those throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem who stand strong in faith in the midst of daily challenge, we pray:

Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

We praise you, God of our hope, for all the faithful before us who entered into your labors and worshiped you in truth [especially *N.*]. That we may live faithful to eternal life, we pray:

Where there is despair, let us sow hope.

Celebrant: Pour your love into our hearts, O God of peace. Give us joy in our suffering, endurance in trials, character in times of weakness, mercy in our faith seeking understanding, and hope in adversity. So may we live, birthed always anew in you, who has gasped and panted for our life, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Prayers of the People

(Adapted from *Intercessions for the Christian People* - Gail Ramshaw, editor)

Deacon: God has consecrated us in baptism's gracious waters to be a holy people. That we may be ever anointed with gladness, let us turn to our God in prayer, saying: God of all gladness, where there is sadness, let us sow joy.

Intercessor: We pray for the church, for an end to division and indignation, for all the people washed and sent by Christ, and for a renewal of God's fulfilling Spirit. We pray for your light to brighten the work of all churches, particularly the work of the churches of Jerusalem, remembering Holy Family Church in Reineh and Emmanuel Church in Ramleh, God of all gladness, ***where there is sadness, let us sow joy.***

We pray for all who beg for life, for all baptismal candidates awaiting the pool of grace, and for hearts of devout faith: God of all gladness, ***where there is sadness, let us sow joy.***

We pray for all who are called to govern in justice and peace, for an end to all works of darkness, for all the peoples created in God's image, and for a Spirit of wisdom and mercy to rule the mighty. We pray for the ongoing work of *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* with Armenian youth as they develop relationships with Arab and Jewish youth all engaged in leadership programs for peace: God of all gladness, ***where there is sadness, let us sow joy.***

We pray for all condemned to die, for all victims of illegal arrest and oppression, for all who are tortured, for their families, for the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem to carry out their mission as a moderating presence in a war-torn region, and for all who work for liberation: God of all gladness, ***where there is sadness, let us sow joy.***

We pray for all the forgotten and abandoned, for all who are in anguish, for the guilt-ridden, for all in need of the Spirit, for the sick and all who have commended themselves to us for any need [especially *N.*]; for the work of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt, Jordan, as they enable deaf and deaf-blind children to participate meaningfully in their families and communities; for the grieving, and the dying, that they all may be uplifted: God of all gladness, ***where there is sadness, let us sow joy.***

For all brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, spouses and families, partners, friends and companions, that there may be love and mutual reverence. For the *Jerusalem Peacebuilders'* new high school program at the Dar Al-Maarefa School,

located outside the Separation Barrier and inside the Jerusalem Municipal boundary, as it reaches disadvantaged youth preparing them for leadership and peacemaking: God of all gladness,
where there is sadness, let us sow joy.

We pray for all men and women who serve in harm's way, seeking freedom and peace, [especially *N.*], that they are protected by your loving care: God of all gladness,
where there is sadness, let us sow joy.

We pray for all who have gone before us to join you in your kingdom [especially *N.*] and all the peoples of the Middle East whose lives have been stripped away in terror, that they may rest with you in eternal light: God of all gladness,
where there is sadness, let us sow joy.

Celebrant: We praise you, God of our hope, for all the children of light who have gone before us and now stand in your radiant countenance. Give us the light of Christ, that we may leap up in our darkness and rise from death at the last, into the life of gladness in Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Prayers of the People

(Adapted from *Intercessions for the Christian People* - Gail Ramshaw, editor)

Deacon: In our baptism we have been called to rise from the dead and to live with Christ in the Spirit of God. Bonded to the whole people of God in baptism, let us pray for the church and for all people in their need, saying: Lord, where there is discord, let us sow union.

Intercessor: For the unity of the scattered people of God, open our eyes and our ears to the needs of all your children, especially those in our Holy Land where the human cost of war and political unrest is often forgotten: saying,
Lord, where there is discord, let us sow union.

For all who lead the church, for all churches and today for the Diocese of Jerusalem churches of St. John's and St. Luke's in Haifa and Christ Church in Nazareth; for all the baptized in their Lenten pilgrimage: saying,
Lord, where there is discord, let us sow union.

For those who are preparing for baptismal death and resurrection: let us pray, saying,
Lord, where there is discord, let us sow union.

For the leaders of nations, and for peace throughout the world. We especially pray for *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* and the ways it prepares young Jewish, Christian, and Muslim youth to be in dialogue with one another, exploring the touch issues of peace and social justice, empowering and developing them to be the next generation of leaders: saying,
Lord, where there is discord, let us sow union.

For all who suffer, for all the dying, for those who grieve, for those who have commended themselves to us for any need, [*especially N.*], and for all who live in fear through the Middle East conflicts: saying,
Lord, where there is discord, let us sow union.

For those whose burden is too deep for words. Let us pray for the Christian community and for all people in the land of our Lord Jesus Christ's birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection: saying,
Lord, where there is discord, let us sow union.

For those who serve in harm's way, seeking freedom and peace, [*especially N.*], that they are protected by your loving care. For *Jerusalem Peacebuilders'* young people who discover they are one family through sharing each other's stories: saying,

Lord, where there is discord, let us sow union.

In thanksgiving for the saints and martyrs, and for all who are heirs of Christ's suffering and glory, [*especially N.*]. Let us remember them in love and let us lift up those who continue to sacrifice their lives throughout the world and in our Holy Land every day: saying,

Lord, where there is discord, let us sow union.

Celebrant: O God, in the waters of baptism you rescue our lives from death and make us your children, no matter what makes us different from one another. Into your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Palm Sunday

The Prayers of the People

(Adapted from *Intercessions for the Christian People* - Gail Ramshaw, editor)

Deacon: On this day the church hears again the passion of our Lord, into which we are baptized. We follow along the steep road into Jerusalem as pilgrims continue to do, recalling the love poured out for all. Recreated by the mind of Christ, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs, saying: Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

Intercessor: For the whole church throughout the world, its bishops, clergy, and all the baptized, particularly for the Diocese of Jerusalem churches of Saviour Church in Kufr-Yasif and Redeemer Church in Jabal Amman, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

For those who are preparing for baptism, and for their teachers and sponsors. For schools everywhere, especially the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center School in Ramallah, Palestine, that helps ensure West Bank children and adolescents have a future and a reason to hope, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

For peace among nations and forbearance among all people, for the building of hope in our Holy Land. For *Jerusalem Peacebuilders'* programs that teach Christian, Jewish, and Muslim young people to open the windows between them and learn how to listen to one another, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

For this assembly as we walk the road toward the cross, for the less than 2% Christian population of Israel/Palestine, most of whom are ethnic Palestinians and some of whom have been in the region since the original Apostles, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

For the weary, for the sick, for those who are consumed with sorrow, for the forgotten, for the isolated, for those in our Holy Land still living in refugee camps, and for all who have commended themselves to us for any need, [*especially N.*], let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

For all who are in harm's way, [*especially N.*]. For all who risk being in interfaith dialogue with those different from themselves and who seek peace in our Holy Land. We give thanks for programs like *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* that connect

young people to grow spiritually, personally, and intellectually, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

For all who have died, [*especially N.*], let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

We give thanks for all the departed who had the mind of Christ and were humble servants of God. For ourselves, that we may be obedient even unto death, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, make your face to shine upon your servants.

Celebrant: Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Maundy Thursday

The Prayers of the People

(Adapted from *Intercessions for the Christian People* - Gail Ramshaw, editor)

Deacon: On this holy day we dine together as the body of Christ, and at the table come to love and serve one another. We recall the disciples gathering with our Lord and the command given to them to love one another. On this holy day, then, let us pray for the church and the world, saying: Lord, in your mercy, grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love.

Intercessor: For the whole church of God that it may grow in unity and servanthood. Help us to know that we are connected by the One who created us all: Lord, in your mercy,
grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love.

For our congregation, for all congregations and particularly for the Diocese of Jerusalem parish of St. Paul's Church in Ashrafiyeh, that in these holy days we may grow in love for one another and for all people: Lord, in your mercy,
grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love.

For those who will be baptized at Easter, that they may rejoice in their passage through death into new life: Lord, in your mercy,
grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love.

For all the leaders and people of the world, that reconciliation and peace may overcome conflict and oppression. For the ministry of *Jerusalem Peacebuilders'* young people who learn to live in peace together and bravely take their learning back to their home environments: Lord, in your mercy,
grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love.

For the hungry in body or spirit, that they may be fed; for the Diocese of Jerusalem to have all that it needs to protect and sustain the fragile Christian presence in our Holy Land: Lord, in your mercy,
grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love.

For the sick and those in pain, for the lonely and the forgotten, for all who would receive no medical care without the programs at Ahli Hospital in war-torn Gaza, for all who have commended themselves to us [*especially N.*], and for the dying and all who mourn, that they may know the full extent of God's love for them: Lord, in your mercy,
grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love.

For those in harm's way [*especially N.*], for all served by the Diocese of Jerusalem who live in violence and fear and hope everyday, that they all be protected and strengthened: Lord in your mercy,
grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love.

For all who have died, [*especially N.*], that they be granted an entrance into the land of light and joy: Lord, in your mercy,
grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love.

In thanksgiving for the saints and martyrs and for all the faithful departed who join us at your table of grace: Lord, in your mercy,
grant that we may not so much seek to be loved as to love.

Celebrant: O God, into your love we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, knowing that Christians throughout the world gather in Jerusalem this night with us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Easter Vigil

The Prayers of the People

(Adapted from *Intercessions for the Christian People* - Gail Ramshaw, editor)

Deacon: On this holy night of resurrection and joy, let us pray for the church and the world, saying: Lord, in your mercy, where there is darkness, let us sow light.

Intercessor: O God, we give thanks for the goodness of creation, for the victory of resurrection, and for the grace of redemption. We praise you for leading us from darkness into light, and for bringing us through the waters of death into new life in you. Lord, in your mercy,
where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That the church throughout our world and particularly churches in the Jerusalem cycle of prayer, tonight for Savior Church in Zarka and St. John the Baptist Church in Husun, all celebrating the resurrection with joy, may bring the light of Christ into the world: Lord, in your mercy,
where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That the newly baptized, buried and raised with Christ, may grow in trust and hope: Lord, in your mercy,
where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That our community, renewed this night through word and sacrament, may care for one another in love that surpasses understanding: Lord, in your mercy,
where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That the people of the world, remembering the source of creation, may care for the waters of the earth and for all living things and recall that we are all connected to the One who created us all: Lord, in your mercy.
where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That the leaders of nations, knowing their power, may bring peace and justice to the world. We give thanks for the work of *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* that leads and guides young people to be leaders of peace through courage, using their voices to change the world: Lord, in your mercy,
where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That all who have commended themselves to us for any need, [*especially N.*], and that all who suffer, recalling the mystery of Christ crucified and risen, may be comforted. We especially remember the children served at Theodor Schneller School of Amman in Jordan founded by 19th century Germans to house Christian

orphans and today struggles to serve orphans, refugees, and children from at-risk homes, regardless of their religious tradition: Lord, in your mercy,
where there is darkness, let us sow light.

That all who serve in harm's way, [*especially N.*], may serve with compassion, moral strength and a sense of justice. : Lord, in your mercy,
where there is darkness, let us sow light.

In thanksgiving for the saints and martyrs, for the witnesses of the resurrection, for Christians who have sacrificed their lives in our Holy Land, and for all who have passed over from the darkness of death into the glorious light of Christ [*especially N.*]: Lord, in your mercy,
where there is darkness, let us sow light.

Celebrant: In joy and faith and hope, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy of God, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. *Amen.*

Easter Day

The Prayers of the People

(Adapted from *Intercessions for the Christian People* - Gail Ramshaw, editor)

Deacon: In the power of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord, saying: Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For the whole bright earth, so lovingly created yet so compassionately redeemed, that we may speak again of the glory and majesty of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For all nations and peoples of the earth, to whom God shows no partiality, that all may be transformed by mercy to live together in hope. We especially lift up to you the peoples of our Holy Land, strengthening them to be beacons of that hope, reconciliation, and respect for differences, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For the holy church, whose life is hid with Christ in God, that in all its diversity witness may be made to one Lord, one faith, one baptism. In the Diocese of Jerusalem cycle of prayer we remember The Virgin Mary Episcopal Church in Irbid and All Saints Episcopal Church in Beirut, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For all in high places of authority, for whom Christ was put to death and was raised, that they may be led to govern with equity and justice, bringing life to those in the shadow of death, breaking down walls that divide, and warming the hearts of those filled with hatred, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For all who have been baptized and given the garments of light, that they, with the whole church, may be witnesses to the gospel in daily life. May we with them hold in our hearts the witness of our Holy Land, the root of our faith heritage, that brings the gospel to life and whose stones cry out for peace and reconciliation in our time, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For all captives, prisoners, and those condemned to die, with whom the Holy One shares suffering and abandonment, that they may find strength, freedom, and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For all who suffer in mind, body, or soul, for whom Christ is risen with healing in his glorious wings, that they may be comforted. We pray for all who have commended

themselves to us for healing and today for *N*. We also lift up East Jerusalem's Princess Basma Center that serves children and young adults with autism, cerebral palsy, deafness, blindness and other congenital complications. May the Center continue to be a voice of advocacy for the rights of peoples with disabilities in Israel and Palestine, no matter what their religious tradition or ethnicity, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For all the brave men and women working and living in harm's way, that they be protected and strengthened. May the young people who are working together with *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* find their voices as they listen to each other's stories and find their way to transforming our world. May we with them pray for the peace of Jerusalem and all of the Holy Land, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For all who have died, [especially *N*.], and for all who grieve, that in Christ who triumphs over death they may find light perpetual and blessed assurance, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

For all gathered in this assembly, that we, like Mary and Peter and John, may see the tomb empty, and joyfully believing, walk in newness of life, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, where there is doubt, let us sow faith.

Celebrant: Rejoicing in the risen presence of our Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and ourselves to Christ, to whom we give laud and praise now and forever.

Amen.