

Third Sunday in Lent

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: 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 and their *AFEDJ* partners, 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 and their *AFEDJ* partners—the work 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. For the support of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their *AFEDJ* partners who make these ministries possible, 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 through *Jerusalem Peacebuilders* 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 with the help of their *AFEDJ* partners 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.***

