

PRAYER PILGRIMAGE FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

Liturgy

References to Jerusalem are replaced with {Gaza} and to Zion or Judah with {Palestine} in order to personalize it.

Our prayer consists of reading and supplication before God and in solidarity with the people of Gaza and those hostages still alive. Our hope is to give voice to those far away in the midst of the oppression and the suffering. In our compassionate solidarity through prayer we seek to send out healing energies from God through us into the places and persons where there is suffering, grief and anger.

There are five readings/prayers that can be done responsively (If you are doing it with another person or group), and you can decide when to pause for each one along your walk (if you are walking).

1. Lamentations 1: 1-5

¹How lonely sits the city
that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has become,
she that was great among the nations!

She that was a princess among the provinces
has become a vassal.

Please help, O Holy One;
Come save, O Mighty One!

² She weeps bitterly in the night,
with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers
she has no one to comfort her;
**all her friends have dealt treacherously with her,
they have become her enemies.**

Please help, O Holy One;
Come save, O Mighty One!

³ {Palestine} has gone into exile with suffering
and hard servitude;
she lives now among the nations,
and finds no resting-place;
**her pursuers have all overtaken her
in the midst of her distress.**

Please help, O Holy One;
Come Save, O Mighty One!

⁴ The roads to {Palestine} mourn,
for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate,
her priests {& Imams} groan;

**her young people grieve,
and her lot is bitter.**

⁵ Her foes have become the masters,
her enemies prosper...

Please help, O Holy One;

Come Save, O Mighty One! Amen.

2. Lamentations 2: 10-13

¹⁰ The elders of daughter {Palestine}
sit on the ground in silence;

**they have thrown dust on their heads
and put on sackcloth;**

the young girls and boys of {Gaza}
have bowed their heads to the ground.

Have Mercy, O God;

**Walk with the wounded and the grieving
Until the light of freedom shines and peace
comes.**

¹¹ My eyes are spent with weeping;
my stomach churns;

my bile is poured out on the ground
because of the destruction of my people,

because infants and babes faint
in the streets of the city.

Have Mercy, O God;

**Walk with the wounded and the grieving
Until the light of freedom shines and peace
comes.**

¹² They cry to their mothers,
‘Where is bread and wine?’
**as they faint like the wounded
in the streets of the city,
as their life is poured out
on their mothers’ bosom.**

Have Mercy, O God;

**Walk with the wounded and the grieving
Until the light of freedom shines and peace
comes.**

¹³ What can I say for you, to what compare you,
O daughter {Gaza}?
**To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you,
O virgin daughter {Palestine}?**
For vast as the sea is your ruin;
who can heal you?

Have Mercy, O God;

Walk with the wounded and the grieving

Until the light of freedom shines and peace comes.

Amen.

3. Lamentations 3: 21-26

²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

Grant us hope, O God;

Hope with justice!

²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
God's mercies never come to an end;

²³ **they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.**

²⁴ 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in the Mighty One.'

Grant us hope, O God;

Hope with justice!

²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for God,
to the soul that seeks The Holy One.

²⁶ **It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.**

Grant us hope, O God;
Hope with justice! Amen.

4. Lamentations 4: 1-2,4-5

How the gold has grown dim,
how the pure gold is changed!
**The sacred stones lie scattered
at the head of every street.**

Do not forget the suffering, O God;
**Do not neglect the dying and
Do not forsake the captives!**

² The precious children of {Palestine},
worth their weight in fine gold—
**how they are reckoned as earthen pots,
the work of a potter's hands!**

Do not forget the suffering, O God;
**Do not neglect the dying and
Do not forsake the captives!**

⁴ The tongue of the infant sticks
to the roof of its mouth for thirst;
**the children beg for food,
but no one gives them anything.**

Do not forget the suffering, O God;
Do not neglect the dying and
Do not forsake the captives!

⁵ Those who feasted on delicacies
perish in the streets;
those who were brought up in purple
cling to ash heaps.

Do not forget the suffering, O God;
Do not neglect the dying and
Do not forsake the captives!

5. Lamentations 5: 1-3, 19-21

Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us;
look, and see our disgrace!

Journey with those who are afflicted, O God,
through death to resurrection!

² Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers,
our homes to aliens.

Journey with those who are afflicted, O God,
through death to resurrection!

³ We have become orphans, fatherless;
our mothers are like widows.

**Journey with those who are afflicted, O God,
through death to resurrection!**

¹⁹ But you, O LORD, reign for ever;
your throne endures to all generations.

²⁰ **Why have you forgotten us completely?**
Why have you forsaken us these many days?

**Journey with those who are afflicted, O God,
through death to resurrection!**

²¹ Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may be
restored;
renew our days as of old...

**Journey with those who are afflicted, O God,
through death to resurrection!**

Amen.