

A Palestinian Litany

adapted from Bishop Munib Younan.

LITANY OF PRAISE

Congregation to say after Leader: *We praise and thank you, our God.*

Leader: Almighty and eternal God, You are our refuge and strength in this troubled world. In Bethlehem you became one of us, sharing and understanding our humanity, our suffering, our problems.

Congregation: *We praise and thank you, our God.*

Leader: You took refuge in Egypt, identifying with all refugees, with all victims of political powers.

Congregation: *We praise & thank you, our God.*

Leader: You grew up in Nazareth and ministered to the people of Palestine, spreading Your kingdom in a new way.

Congregation: *We praise & thank you, our God.*

Leader: You were crucified in a Jerusalem-- occupied then as it is now. And now You live in every person who suffers under the same injustice. Yet on Your cross, You would have us reconcile with ALL our fellow human beings, those in power and those oppressed.

Congregation: *We praise & thank you, our God.*

Litany of Petition

Congregation to say after each petition:

Lord, have mercy. Oh, Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Tonight, our Heavenly Father, we come before You having heard of so many of the troubles and pains which Your children live through in Palestine. But we've also heard of so many inspiring resolutions.

Congregation: *Lord, have mercy. Oh Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: We pray for all victims of violence there. We pray also for those who are responsible for this violence & injustice.

Congregation: *Lord, have mercy on us. Oh Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: We pray for laborers who cannot enter their place of work. We pray for youth who are losing hope for their futures.

Congregation: *Lord, have mercy. Oh, Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: We pray for mothers who are fed up with the bloodshed, the killing, the constant use of arms. We pray for bereaved families, who've lost those they love. We pray for recovery for those injured. We pray for those who now must live with permanent disability.

Congregation: *Lord, have mercy. Oh Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: O Christ, our eyes look to You, our help in troubled times.

Congregation: *Lord, have mercy. Oh Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: We pray that You open the eyes of the world-- of Israelis, of Palestinians, of Americans, to this injustice. Help the world see that the security and freedom of the one people depend on the security and freedom of the other.

Congregation: *Lord, have mercy. Oh Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: We pray for politicians, that they realize this security, this peace we all long for will not come by use of arms and force, but by assuring justice. Help *us* help them see justice as the only way that two peoples can, together, work out an equitable future.

Congregation: *Lord, have mercy. Oh, Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: Oh, Christ, You called us to be your followers. Give us Your love --for those on both sides of this conflict. Free us, and our children, from hatred and bitterness. Fill us with an agape love, combined with justice, so that we respect the dignity and rights of all.

Congregation: *Lord, have mercy. Oh, Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: Jesus, when You walked among us, you showed us that forgiveness is not forgetting one's rights, but at times asserting them. You also showed that forgiving comes from seeing you, oh Christ, in our enemies--of loving ALL as our neighbor. We are created in Your image: Help us to see You in Israelis, and help Israelis see the Divine in every Palestinian.

Congregation: *Lord, have mercy. O Lord, hear our prayer.*

HYMN: **Let Streams of Living Justice** (Tune: O God Beyond All Praising)

Let streams of living justice. flow down upon the earth.

Give freedom to captives, let all the poor have worth.

The hungry's hands are pleading; the workers claim their rights.

The mourners long for laughter, the blinded see for sight.

Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron power.

Abolish ancient vengeance, proclaim your people's hour.

LITANY of RENEWAL

Congregation will reply: *Come Holy Spirit: Renew us all:*

Leader: Holy Spirit, giver of new beginnings, help us to faithfully respond to God's call to be ministers of reconciliation.

Congregation: *Come, Holy Spirit, renew us all.*

Leader: Help us find ways of encouraging people to open their hearts: to confess their part in past injustices, so as to find ways to build a secure future for our children. Give us wisdom in this hard task. When we despair, come --and rebuild our strength and hope.

Congregation: *Come, Holy Spirit, renew us all.*

Leader: Sustain with your power those we heard from tonight, Mitri and all those in Bright Stars of Bethlehem, who in the midst of all these difficulties, are building a culture of reconciliation, justice and peace. If we are all not many in numbers right now, may we remember that God's kingdom among us started with only a handful of faithful and committed people. Give all of us generous hearts, to support Bright Stars in their work.

Congregation: *Come, Holy Spirit, renew us all.*

Pastor Mitri (English/Arabic): Come, Healing Spirit. Change us; and open ways for us to change others. Fill Palestine with a just peace. Remove hatred of those on the 'other side' by filling us with Your true love.

Congregation: *Come, Holy Spirit, renew us all.*

Pastor Mitri (English/Arabic): O Breath of God, remove our insecurities, and bring in Your true security. Remove all occupiers, and bring in Your true freedom --for all.

Congregation: *Come, Holy Spirit, renew us all.*

Pastor Mitri: (English/Arabic)

Merciful God, accept our prayers and yearnings tonight. You are our strength. No one can take that power away from us. We pray in the name of Christ – our Liberator and Redeemer.

Congregation: *Amen*

Pastor Mitri: Benediction (English/Arabic) *Our vigil is now over. Our work now begins anew. And until we pray together again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Tonight inaugurates the Portland-area's monthly prayer vigils for a just peace in Palestine. This world-wide effort of ACT PALESTINE is endorsed by ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)'s *Peace Not Walls* campaign.

All are invited to future vigils on the **24th** of each month, at
7 pm, Central Lutheran Church, 1820 NE 21st Ave, Portland.