

Breaking down Walls

An Ecumenical Prayer Service

**For he is our peace ...
and
has broken down the dividing wall**

Thursday 21st July 2005

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

Scripture: Isaiah 59:1-4, 6b-9a

See, the Lord's hand is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. Rather, your iniquities have been barriers between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue mutters wickedness. No one brings suit justly, no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, conceiving mischief and begetting iniquity. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they rush to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, desolation and destruction are in their highways. The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths. Their roads they have made crooked; no one who walks in them knows peace. Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us.

Scripture: Psalm 27:1-3, 7-14

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh — my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

(Response)

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

(Response)

Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

(Response)

Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

(Response)

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

(Response)

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and

having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Music

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:37-42a

As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!' Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' he answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.' As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, 'If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

Homily: Archimandrite Atallah Hanna

Hymn

(As this hymn is sung we begin to walk together towards the Wall)

Responsive Reading

Leader: Here in this dark prison of occupation...

All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here in this greed of land confiscation...

All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here among the inhumanity of demolishing homes...

All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here among the checkpoints that keep us from family and friends...

All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here among the checkpoints which keep us from hospitals and medical care...

All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here among the cruel intimidation, harassment and humiliation...

All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here among the unjust punishments and detention without trial...

All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here among the suffocation of villages under siege...
All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here living with the fear of violence on the roads...
All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here with the indifference to life seen in the suicide bombings...
All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here with the horrible consequences of assassinations...
All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here with the burden of collective punishment...
All: Who will break down the walls?

Leader: Here with the disgrace of the Separation Wall...
All: Who will break down the walls?

Scripture: Ephesians 2:14-19

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God,

Prayers

(Kyrie eleison will be sung after each prayer)

Lord's Prayer

(Each in our own language)

Hymn

Blessing

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