



Prayer Vigil for Gaza

Sunday 3rd August 2025

Chapel of the Holy Trinity and St Mark
Bishop's Palace, Wells

Introduction

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.

We meet in the presence of God
who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.

Words of Welcome

Let us pray,

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.
Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine.
We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.
Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.
In Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Act of Contrition

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.'
We long for the fire of God's cleansing
to touch our unclean lips,
for our guilt to be removed and our sin wiped out.
So we meet Father, Son and Holy Spirit
with repentance in our hearts.

Cf Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4

In a dark and disfigured world
we have not held out the light of life:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

In a hungry and despairing world
we have failed to share our bread:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In a cold and loveless world
we have kept the love of God to ourselves:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Scripture

As the deer longs for the water brooks, ♦
so longs my soul for you, O God.

**My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; ♦
when shall I come before the presence of God?**

My tears have been my bread day and night, ♦
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'

**Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul: ♦
how I went with the multitude
and led the procession to the house of God,**

With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, ♦
among those who kept holy day.

**Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, ♦
and why are you so disquieted within me?**

O put your trust in God; ♦
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

**My soul is heavy within me; ♦
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from Hermon and the hill of Mizar.**

Deep calls to deep in the thunder of your waterfalls; ♦
all your breakers and waves have gone over me.

**The Lord will grant his loving-kindness in the daytime; ♦
through the night his song will be with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.**

I say to God my rock,
'Why have you forgotten me, ♦
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?'

**As they crush my bones, my enemies mock me; ♦
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, ♦
and why are you so disquieted within me?

**O put your trust in God; ♦
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

Psalm 42

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is

possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12.9-21

Voices from the Conflict

We listen to a recording of Lama, 16-year-old Vice President of the Palestine Children's Council from Christian Aid.

We listen to Médecins Sans Frontières's Open Letter for Gaza.

Silence and Reflection

Silence is kept.

Intercessions

'But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

Matthew 19.26

In our despair and concern for the world, we turn with hope to you O Lord in prayer

Make your ways known upon earth, Lord God,
your saving power among all peoples.

Renew your Church in holiness
and help us to serve you with joy.

Guide the leaders of this and every nation,
that justice may prevail throughout the world.

Let not the needy be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Make us instruments of your peace
and let your glory be over all the earth.

We pray for peace in the Middle East and particularly for Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

We pray for an end to all forms of persecution and prejudice, the destruction of homes and communities, businesses and the institutions of public life.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

We pray for the Jewish people across the world and in our communities who are fearful of abuse and antisemitism. We pray that all people will reject antisemitism and all other prejudice that dehumanises the image of God found in every human life.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

We pray for the ministry and work of hospitals and medics in Gaza and the West Bank.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

We pray for schools, teachers, and students.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

We pray for those who are hungry, those who are starving, those who are thirsty, those who are terrified, and those whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

We pray for those who seek to bring humanitarian aid and those who risk their lives to care for the needs of others.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

We pray for children who have been orphaned and displaced.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

We pray for all those who grieve the loss of loved ones, for those who have lost parents, partners, children, and friends. We pray for those who continue to be held hostage in Gaza and for all who lost lives or were injured in the attacks of 7th October.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

We pray for those in positions of authority and influence with the power to stop the violence.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

We pray for an end to war in Gaza and the West Bank and hope for true and lasting peace.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5.13-22

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

*Cover Image: Our Lady of Gaza, pietá. The Blessed Virgin Mary holding the corpse of
Jesus Christ.*

Material from Common Worship New Patterns for Worship, @ Archbishops' Council

