

To the Mother of Jesus,
the ever blessed Virgin Mary,
we entrust the men and women living in the land
where Jesus once lived.
Following her example, may they listen to the word of God,
and have respect and compassion for others,
especially those who differ from them.

May all be inspired to oneness of heart and mind,
working for a world that will be a true home
for all its peoples!

— *Peace to all! Shalom! Salam!*

R/ Amen.

SUGGESTED HYMN: "Behold a Broken World, We Pray"
(*Catholic Book of Worship III*, # 538)

Original text prepared by the French Sector National Liturgy Office.
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Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land *Suggestions for the Way of the Cross* *Good Friday, 2011*

The service begins in prayerful silence.

Leader — In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
All **R/ Amen.**

OPENING REFLECTION

Leader

Brothers and sisters in the Lord,

We are gathered to relive Our Lord's Way of the Cross.
Considering the situation in the Holy Land, the Church invites
us to pray for peace in the Near and Middle East. May God
grant peace in Jerusalem and throughout all our world.

Let us pray for peace in all civil societies; for peace among
nations, among all peoples, and among all cultures.

Let us pray for peace among all religions.

Let us pray especially for peace among the three faiths that
believe in the One God, and who profess their faith in the
God of Abraham.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit bring peace to each of our hearts,
for it is there where peace begins.

Leader — O Lord, you love this earth.
All **R/ You brought the children of Jacob back
from exile.**

— You have removed the sin of your people.

R/ You have covered all their faults.

— Let us see, O Lord, your love,

R/ And grant us your salvation.

— I listen, and what does the Lord say?

R/ He says peace for his people.

— May your Kingdom come,

R/ As dawn follows night!

— May your Kingdom come.

R/ May it enlighten our lives and change them!

SUGGESTED HYMN: “The Master Came to Bring Good News”

(Catholic Book of Worship III, # 439)

The Stations of the Cross follow, using any customary texts.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Based on the words of
Pope John Paul II, during his visit
to the Golan Heights, Syria, 7 May 2001.
The complete text is available on the Vatican Website, vatican.va*

Leader:

— Lord, you speak words of peace to your people,
And to all who turn to you in their hearts.

We pray to you for the peoples of the Holy Land
and the Middle East.

Help them to break down the walls of hostility and division,
and to build together a world of justice and solidarity.

Lord, you create new heavens and a new earth.
To you we entrust the young people of these lands.
In their hearts they aspire to a brighter future;
strengthen their resolve

to be men and women of peace,
and heralds of new hope to their peoples.

Father, you make justice spring forth from the earth.
We pray for the civil leaders of this region,
that they may strive to satisfy their peoples’ rightful aspirations,
and educate the young in the ways of justice and peace.

Inspire them to work generously for the common good,
to respect the inalienable dignity of every person
and the fundamental rights which have their origin
in the image and likeness of the Creator
impressed upon each and every human being.

Lord of heaven and earth,
Creator of the one human family,
we pray for the followers of all religions.
May they seek your will
in prayer and purity of heart;
may they adore you and worship your holy name.
Lead them to find in you the strength to overcome
fear and distrust,
to grow in friendship and to live together in harmony.

Merciful Father,
may all believers find the courage to forgive one another,
so that the wounds of the past may be healed,
and not be a pretext for further suffering in the present.
May this happen above all in the Holy Land,
this land which you have blessed
with so many signs of your Providence,
and where you have revealed yourself as the God of Love.