

# A TIME OF PRAYER FOR GOD'S SUFFERING PEOPLE

PSALM 83:1-5, 13-18

*Read Responsively*

O God, do not keep silence;  
do not hold your peace or be still, O God!  
**For behold, your enemies make an uproar;  
those who hate you have raised their heads.**

They lay crafty plans against your people;  
they consult together against your treasured ones.  
**They say, "Come, let us wipe them out as a nation;  
let the name of Israel be remembered no more!"**

For they conspire with one accord;  
against you they make a covenant—  
**O my God, make them like whirling dust,  
like chaff before the wind.**

As fire consumes the forest,  
as the flame sets the mountains ablaze,  
**so may you pursue them with your tempest  
and terrify them with your hurricane!**

Fill their faces with shame,  
that they may seek your name, O LORD.  
**Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever;  
let them perish in disgrace,**

that they may know that you alone,  
whose name is the LORD,  
are the Most High over all the earth.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

## AN OPENING PRAYER

*Led by the Celebrant to focus our time together in prayer*

Heavenly Father, we bring before you today the people of Syria and Iraq, asking you to be their defender and help in their time of need. Walk with them in their suffering and loss, and give them strength to face the days ahead. We pray for release of the captives and freedom for those held hostage. We pray for your intervention against the violence and evil against your people. We pray for your provision for the hungry, the homeless, and the bereaved. We pray for you to help your people who are called by your Name, Jesus' Name, and it is in His Name we ask these things. **Amen.**

*We will now spend time in prayer before God. You are invited to kneel, sit, or stand- whichever is most comfortable for you and aids your prayer. We will pray before God for an extended time (probably around ten minutes). During this time let us remember to pray as our Archbishop has asked us. The celebrant will conclude the time of prayer with the following collect.*

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, especially in Syria and Iraq; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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## APPENDIX: OPTIONAL PRAYERS FOR USE

### FOR OUR ENEMIES

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in Thy good time enable us all to stand reconciled before Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## FOR MUSLIMS

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in Thy goodness has caused the light of the Gospel to shine on our land; Extend thy mercy, we beseech Thee, to the nations of the world that still walk in darkness; enlighten the Muslims with the knowledge of Thy truth; and grant that the Gospel of salvation may be made known to all lands, that the heart of the peoples may be turned to Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## AGAINST EVIL

Almighty God, who has created man in Thine own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedoms, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice among men and nations to the glory of Thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## AGAINST JIHAD

O Almighty God, King of all kings and Governor of all things, whose power no creature is able to resist, to whom belongeth justly to punish sinners, and to be merciful to them that truly repent: Save and deliver us, we humbly beseech Thee, from the hands of our enemies; abate their pride, assuage their malice, and confound their devices; that we being armed with Thy defense, may be preserved evermore from all perils, to glorify Thee who art the only giver of all victory; through the merits of Thine only Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## FOR THOSE MARTYRED

O Lord, the maker and redeemer of all believers; Grant to the faithful departed all the unsearchable benefits of they Son's passion, that in the day of His appearing; they may be manifested as thy true children; through the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## FOR THE CHURCH CATHOLIC

Grant, O Lord, that, in all our sufferings here upon earth for the testimony of Thy truth, we may steadfastly look up to heaven, and by faith behold the glory that shall be revealed; and being filled with the Holy Ghost, may learn to love and bless our persecutors by the example of Thy first martyr, Saint Stephen, who prayed for his

murderers to Thee, O blessed Jesus, who standest at the right hand of God to succor all those who suffer for Thee, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**