

Dear Friends,

In commemoration of Nakba Day, this Ecumenical Liturgy was prepared by the Global Kairos for Justice - Asia Forum (Theology Group). Global Kairos for Justice is a worldwide coalition of concerned Christians born in response to the Kairos Palestine document.

We invite you to utilize any and all parts of this resource in integrate it into your regularly schedule liturgical gathering (i.e. a Sunday Service) or to develop a separate stand-alone event.

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Let us join our Palestinian siblings in standing in solidarity with their struggle.

Thank you

1. Introduction

We gather to honour the memory of the Nakba. May 15, 1948 is designated as **Nakba Day**. The *Nakba*, Arabic for "Day of the Catastrophe," refers to the displacement of over 700,000 Palestinians during the Arab-Israeli war in 1948 surrounding the establishment of the State of Israel. The Zionist forces caused the destruction of 400-600 villages, the killing of 13,000 to 15,000 from 1947 to 1949, the loss of land and property, the systemic erasure of the national identity of the Palestinian People, and the denial of the nationhood of Palestine.

Seventy years later, the situation in Occupied Palestine remains dire across both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In Gaza, Israel's relentless military assault has devastated cities, killed at least 70,000 since October 2023, and pushed the population into famine-like conditions as aid is restricted. At the same time, in the West Bank, Israeli settlements continue to expand as land seizures, home demolitions, and military raids steadily advance a process widely described as de facto annexation. These realities reflect a deepening crisis for the Palestinian people, marked by displacement, loss of land, and the erosion of hopes for a just and lasting peace.

2. Welcome

Today, we gather to remember the victims of the *Nakba*.

We hold in our hearts:

- The keys that are still kept, symbols of promises to return;
- The memory of homes demolished or occupied, where generations of families have been nurtured;
- The silencing of histories which deny the Palestinian People identity and nationhood;
- The hope that refuses to be extinguished, *Sumud*, which is Arabic for "steadfastness."

We vow not to look away from the injustice of Palestinian displacement and their longing for home. We acknowledge the profound pain of the past and the struggle for Palestinian rights in the present.

May our act of interfaith and intersectional solidarity make clear the evil of the colonial manipulation of religion against the Palestinian people, of the sin of Christian Zionism, Jewish Zionism, Islamic Zionism, and Hindutva Zionism.

May this remembrance turn our hearts toward acts of justice, where human dignity and equality are demanded for all the inhabitants of the land—from the river to the sea.

May we find the courage to work for a peace built on truth, reconciliation, and the recognition of the humanity of the Palestinians.

Let us honour the past by working for a just tomorrow - where Palestine is free.

Amen.

3. Prayer of Repentance

God of Life, we confess that our lives and relationships are deeply connected with the cultures of hate, cruelty, domination, greed, and silence. We plunder, destroy, and despise your creation, sometimes in your name, even as we proclaim that you are the Creator of all. We remember the victims of religious extremism and Christian Zionism in different parts of the world, especially in Occupied Palestine, where the daily slaughter of human beings, including children, is sacralized as part of the Divine plan.

Forgive our arrogance in attributing violence, hatred and destructive power to your will to legitimize our own projects of domination and self-aggrandisement.

God of Love, forgive us when we do not believe you care for others – those who are humiliated and harmed, violated and killed - because they are not like us and differ in creed, colour and class. We remember those who are willfully misrepresented as threats, terrorists, drug peddlers, liabilities, and collateral damage. We pray for those who have suffered great loss and inconsolable grief, those who cannot even mourn the death of their children, their people, and the destruction of their land.

Forgive us for pursuing our own interests, for speaking empty words, and for staying silent when violence happens, even though we proclaim our belief that you are a God of love and justice who seeks the liberation of all.

God of Freedom, we believe that you intervene in our lives and the world to liberate, restore, and transform so that all may celebrate the gift of life that comes from you. Yet we live by theories and theologies that hold a few as special, superior, and chosen over the rest. We remember the Palestinians, victims of racism, patriarchy, colonialism, Christian Zionism, and other forms of domination and discrimination, and violence and genocide.

Forgive us for creating you in our own image to protect our own power and privilege, attributing to you our prejudices and selfishness, and cultivating hate, violence, and apathy.

God of Justice, we are a community formed around the memory of Jesus Christ who preached the Kingdom of God, who fed the hungry and thirsty, defied the Roman Empire and religious hierarchies; and blessed the poor; yet we legitimise inequality and abuse in every sphere of our lives, including the Church.

Forgive our cowardice and the desire to stay on the side of those who wield power. Liberate us and grant us the courage to dismantle all such soul-destroying and life-diminishing cultures and traditions.

Amen.

4. Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth, who formed the universe and skillfully shaped each land and people; who established Palestine's hills, valleys, olive trees, and flowing waters; who conceived the Palestinian People in God's image - beautiful, beloved, and worthy.

We affirm our faith in God the Holy Spirit, *Maha Shakti* (Sanskrit for "Supreme Power") the Breath of Life, who moves over all of creation; who weeps with the suffering people, the Palestinian People, and cries out with Creation in unfathomable ways. The same Spirit endows the Palestinian People with holy perseverance - the spirit of Sumud, unwavering hope that gives them the resilience to oppose injustice and pursue liberation.

We believe in Christ Jesus, who was born of Mary in Bethlehem, Palestine; who shared bread, walked the land, and preached in the villages; who declared peace for the tired, justice for the downtrodden, and freedom for the prisoners; who was crucified for speaking truth to power, for being in solidarity with the weak, for resisting oppressive authorities, and for exposing structural and systemic sin; who ushered the way toward peace and a new creation.

We believe in one humanity with various cultures, religions, regions, colours, languages, and genders; affirm interfaith relations and inclusiveness; and commit to living in harmony in spite of our differences. We believe that the Church is a community of compassion and prophecy, called to be Christ's Body throughout history; to stand with the weak and marginalized, particularly with the suffering Palestinian people, and all who are subjected to injustice, displacement, and occupation.

We believe we are called as disciples of Christ to teach and practice forgiveness without surrendering justice, to proclaim reconciliation without silencing truth, and to embody peace without accepting oppression; to live out the Gospel through love, solidarity, inclusion, and the equality of all God's children.

We believe in God's reign, which is already here, but not yet fully revealed; in the triumph of justice and peace that will embrace the earth and restore the dignity of all - of the Palestinian People and all of creation.

Amen.

5. Lord's Prayer

Loving God, who art in heaven - *you see your people in Palestine and in many places where people cry out for life; you have heard their suffering and their hopes from generation to generation* - hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven - *where no one is hungry and starved; no one is fearful of bombs falling and of soldiers killing; and no one is a migrant, homeless or a refugee who can be imprisoned and tortured; where there are no separation walls or checkpoints that deny people access to healthcare, education, and opportunities, and everyone is valued as a human being created in the image of God, whatever their ethnicity, gender, or race.*

Give us this day our daily bread - *equal opportunities and privileges, dignity and freedom* - and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors - *even as we demand justice and common good; denounce the greed, violence, and apathy of those who have power and wealth; and resist structures and systems that deny many the right to live in their own land, the freedom of mobility and speech, and the right to worship and live-out their faith.*

But lead us not into temptation - *to think might is right* - and deliver us from evil - *of wars and imperialism; of the plunder of the earth and the ocean's resources; and the slavery and genocide of peoples.*

For thine - *and not the world empires and capitalists* - is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

6. Words of Assurance

God of mercy and compassion, We lift before You the land we call Holy—Palestine and Israel—a land deeply loved, yet deeply wounded by violence, occupation, and fear. We call upon Your mercy, which is new every morning, to shine upon the people of Gaza, the West Bank, and all who dwell under the shadow of conflict. Break our hearts for the families torn apart. May we weep with those who grieve. Help us stand with the displaced and the forgotten.

God of justice, We know that You are the defender of the oppressed and the refuge of the crushed. Let Your mercy not be a comfort that keeps us silent, but a fire that empowers us to act. Forgive our indifference and strip us of a shallow peace. Empower us to move beyond empathy into courageous action. Strengthen our hands to break every yoke of injustice, to challenge oppression, and to work for a lasting peace that is rooted in equality and dignity for all.

God of peace, As we look upon the devastation, we ask that your divine strength empower us to be, in the words of Your prophet, "instruments of justice," refusing to accept the normalcy of violence. We pray for a future where weapons of war are laid down, where walls of separation are dismantled, and where Palestinians and Israelis can live together in safety and freedom. May Your mercy fuel our justice, and our justice bring forth Your peace.

In the Name of the One who brings peace to the world,

Amen.

The Kairos Palestine Document is "A word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering."
The Kairos Asia Solidarity Group shares the conviction of *The Palestinian Christian Ecumenical Initiative (Kairos Palestine)* that the suffering of Palestinians under occupation is ultimately about human life and dignity.
When our Palestinian siblings are suffering, we are suffering too.
Our solidarity expresses our shared suffering and hopes for justice.

This Liturgical Resource was prepared by the Global Kairos for Justice - Asia Theology Network.
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Thank you for participating in today's service. **We invite you learn more about Palestine.** The following is a list of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutes, and humanitarian agencies focused on Palestine, categorized by their primary area of activity.

United Nations

- United Nations in Palestine: palestine.un.org/en
- Question of Palestine - United Nations: un.org/unispal/
- Palestinian Refugees: <https://www.unrwa.org/palestine-refugees>
- Independent Commission of Inquiry: <https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/a-hrc-60-crp-3-infographic.pdf>

History, Culture & Education

- Interactive Encyclopaedia of the Palestine Question (PalQuest): (palquest.org)
- The Palestinian Museum: (palmuseum.org/en) Digital archive of Palestinian Culture
- Teach Palestine: (teachpalestine.org/). Education curriculum on Palestine for K-12 students
- Palestine Remembered: (palestineremembered.com). Documentation on Nakba

Human Rights & Legal Advocacy

- Al-Haq: (www.alhaq.org) A West Bank-based independent Palestinian human rights organization.
- Defence of Childrewn (<https://www.dci-palestine.org/>) Palestinian child rights organization
- Addameer: (www.addameer.org) A Palestinian organization focusing on prisoner rights.
- Palestinian Center for Human Rights: (www.pchrgaza.org) Documents human rights violations.
- Al Mezan Center for Human Rights: (www.mezan.org) Gaza human rights and international law..
- BADIL Resource Center: (www.badil.org) Palestinian refugee rights and the right of return.
- Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC): (www.wclac.org) An independent Palestinian NGO working to combat gender-based violence and promote women's rights.
- Law for Palestine: (www.law4palestine.org) Rresearching legal aspects of the Palestinian issue.
- B'Tselem: (www.btselem.org) The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in OPT
- Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center: (www.jlac.ps) Defends human rights.

Humanitarian & Medical Relief

- Palestine Red Crescent Society: (www.palestinercs.org) Medical and emergency services.
- Palestinian Medical Relief Society: (www.pmr.ps) A community-based health organization.
- Anera: (www.anera.org) Humanitarian aid and development projects in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Médecins Sans Frontières: (www.msf.org) Doctors Without Borders in Gaza and the West Bank.
- Palestinian Children's Relief Fund: (www.pcrf.net) Provides medical care for children in Palestine.
- Middle East Children's Alliance: (www.mecaforpeace.org) Extensive work on children in Gaza.
- Health Work Committees: (www.hwc-pal.org) Provides community health services.

Research, Policy & Development

- Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network: (www.pngo.net) An umbrella organization.
- Applied Research Institute: (www.arij.org) Sustainable & natural resource management.
- Palestine Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs: (www.passia.org) Think tank
- Miftah: (www.miftah.org) Palestinian Initiative for Promotion of Global Dialogue & Democracy.
- Democracy and Workers' Rights Center: (www.dwrc.org) Focuses on labor rights and democracy.

Analysis & Information

- Decolonize Palestine: decolonizepalestine.com (Debunking myths and providing context)
- Visualizing Palestine: visualizingpalestine.org (Data-driven visual storytelling)
- Al-Haq (Human Rights): alhaq.org
- Palestine Chronicle: palestinechronicle.com
- BDS Movement: bdsmovement.net
- Palestine Action: global.palestineaction.org

International Advocacy

- Alliance for Middle East Peace: (www.allmep.org) A coalition of NGOs working on peacebuilding.
- Kairos Palestine: (www.kairospalestine.ps) A Christian Palestinian movement.
- Kairos II Document: https://www.kairospalestine.ps/images/GKJs_response_Final.pdf
- Kairos Palestine Documentary 'The Silent Genocide': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ANNWr_8du8