



Sabeel Wave of Prayer

Aug 15th, 2024

This prayer ministry enables local and international friends of Sabeel to pray over regional concerns on a weekly basis. Sent to Sabeel's network of supporters, the prayer is used in services around the world and during Sabeel's Thursday Communion service; as each community in its respective time zone lifts these concerns in prayer at noon every Thursday, this "wave of prayer" washes over the world.

Last week, Israel bombed another school-turned-shelter in Gaza during a time of prayer. Reports from Gaza indicate that over 100 Palestinians were killed in the attack, with many more injured. Eyewitnesses have described the bombing as one of the most horrific massacres since October 7th. Paramedics reported that it was nearly impossible to find a single intact body, with remains scattered across the school. Families were left to receive their loved ones in plastic bags.

- **Crucified Messiah, every time we blink another massacre occurs. Schools, hospitals, safe-zones, and refugee camps are all targeted one by one. Lord, as we struggle to find words and for many, we have no more tears, we simply utter the words of the Psalmist: "Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy" (Psalm 130:1-2). Redeem this broken world.**
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

Last week, the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue an arrest warrant for Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, following his remarks suggesting that it might be justified and moral to starve Palestinians in Gaza. Smotrich also acknowledged that Israel is allowing limited aid into Gaza, attributing the decision to international pressure.

- **God of the starving, you know what it is like to be hungry (Mark 11:12) and you have fed the starving crowds (Matthew 14:13-21). Lord, feed your children who have no food, and provide them your daily bread. We remember how you were recognised by your disciples when you "broke the bread" (Luke 24:35), and we long to see you when you break the bread with your children in Gaza.**
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

Last week, Israeli forces carried deadly raids across the West Bank. In the Jenin refugee camp, at least 5 Palestinians have been killed, including an 18-year-old and in Tubas four Palestinians have been killed. Several reports claim that the Israeli military are blocking ambulances from treating Palestinians who were injured in the raids. Since October 7th, at least 612 Palestinians have been killed, including 145 children and 11 women.

- **Emmanuel, you were incarnated in Bethlehem later to be arrested and killed by the empire. We hold on to our faith that you did not only suffer like many Palestinians, but you are currently co-suffering with all those oppressed. Lord, illuminate to the world the causes, systems, and policies that are responsible to the injustice in the West Bank. Let compassion defuse all hatred.**
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer

Last week, Josep Borrell, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy has issued a new plea to end the war in Gaza which he warns has brought the region to the "brink of a war of unknown proportions". Borrell's comments stem after the Israeli assassination of several high-level Hamas and Hezbollah leaders last week.

- **Prince of peace, we repent if we ever thought we had total control over our lives and the lives of others. As uncertainty is held among us in Palestine, anxious about tomorrow, unable to mourn the suffering of yesterday, and struggling in our present, we remember that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Lord, although we yearn for a ceasefire in both mind, spirit, and body, remind us that no matter the events are to come, we are to follow you and be witnesses.
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

On August 15th, many Christians around the world will celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin. This joyous occasion is filled with reverence, thanksgiving, and reflection on Mary's profound role as a prophet and her special relationship with Christ. Patriarch Luigi Barlassina (1920-1947) was the first to invoke the title "Queen of Palestine" for Mary.

- **God of love, we remember how Mary gave birth in Bethlehem, fled to Egypt passing through Gaza, a key witness to Christ's crucifixion in Jerusalem, and a significant Apostle during the early Church. Lord, like of the days of Mary, there is so much darkness, death and uncertainty. Help us be faithful like Mary proclaiming that God "has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:52-53).
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**

Israel has detained thousands of Palestinians during the Gaza war and is now facing accusations of torture in a new UN report. Additionally, B'tselem has released a report titled "Welcome to Hell: The Israeli Prison System as a Network of Torture Camps." Recently, Israeli military police arrested nine reservists at the Sde Teiman detention centre for prisoner abuses, including rape. Far-right protesters, encouraged by Israeli ministers, broke into two army bases demanding their release. This incident has ignited a disturbing discussion among some Israeli politicians about the use of rape against Palestinian detainees.

- **Holy God, the news about the torture, abuse and rape of Palestinian detainees, disturbs us to our core. We cannot comprehend how hateful people can be but are assured that your judgement will be true. Lord, let the world know the evilness experienced to Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, be with the victims of cruelty and heal the wounds of your children. Transform brokenness into wholeness.
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer**
- **We join with the World Council of Churches in their prayer for the countries of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.
Lord in your mercy... hear our prayers**