



January 28, 2012, 5 p.m.

JERUSALEM WEEK OF PRAYER FOR UNITY  
&  
EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER OF ALL CHURCHES  
FOR RECONCILIATION, UNITY AND PEACE  
*beginning in and proceeding from Jerusalem*

presided over by Dr. Anba Abraham  
Archbishop of Jerusalem and the Near East for the Coptic Orthodox Church

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate Church of St Anthony

*“We will be changed by the Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 15:51-58)*

*Changed by the Good Shepherd - Feed my sheep (Jn 21:17)*

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1. Coptic Hymn “Aburo” (Πουρο) (King of Peace) *(in Coptic)*

“O King of Peace, grant us your Peace and the redemption of our sins.  
Defend your Church from its enemies: You are the wall of defence, so that your Church is strong.  
You are the Emmanuel, you are our Lord,  
You are in the midst of us with the Glory of the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Bless us and grant purity to our hearts,  
Sane our wounds and those of everyone.  
Do not allow that death, which comes from sin, dominates on us, your serves,  
And on all your people.  
We worship you, O Lord, and we thank you.”

2. The Lord’s Prayer *(in Coptic/Arabic)*

3. Word of welcome by H.G Dr. Anba Abraham *(in Arabic)*

4. Thanksgiving by H.G. Dr. Anba Abraham *(in Coptic/Arabic)*

The Opening Greeting:

The priest begins the prayer saying: "Eshlil", which means: "Pray".

The deacon responds; "Stand up for Prayer". This is an announcement for the Assembly to get ready for prayer. Everybody ought to stand in reverence worshipping God without slothfulness. St. Paul said; " I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing". (1 Tim 2:8)

Before blessing the Assembly, the priest ask the other Priests (s) to bless and the other (s) respond (s) asking him to bless. This is reflects the mutual respect and honor preferring one another, as St. Paul said;" Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves". (Rom 12:10)

The priest blesses the Assembly, making the sign of the cross saying to them; "Peace be with all" and they respond saying; "And with your spirit". The priest , here is asking and preaching the peace of Christ to his Assembly. Peace is the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who reconciled the Jews and the Gentiles with God through His body on the Cross. St. Paul said; "For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near". (Eph 2:14-17). Thus, this opening greeting emphasizes the blessings, we get through partaking the holy Eucharist. Eucharist is the Body and the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we find peace with God and our brothers.

**Priest:** ("Eshlil")Pray. Bless

**The other priests:** You Bless

**Deacon:** Stand up to pray

**Priest:** The Priest turns westward towards the Assembly and blesses them making the sign of the cross, saying:  
Peace be with all.

**Assembly:** And with your spirit.

### **The prayer of Thanksgiving**

*This prayer is a thankful remembrance for God's dealing with His people. It is the opening prayer of all the liturgies in all occasions in the Coptic Church.*

**Priest:** Let us give thanks unto the beneficent and merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ; For He has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Him, spared us, supported us, and has brought us to this hour. Let us also ask Him, the Lord our God, Almighty to guard us in all peace this holy day and all the days of our life.

Deacon: Pray.

Assembly: Lord have mercy

Priest: Master, Lord, God Almighty, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ; We thank You for every condition, concerning every condition and in every condition. For You have covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to You, spared us, supported us and have brought us unto this hour.

Deacon: Pray that God have mercy and compassion upon us, hear us, helps us, and accept the supplications and the prayers of His saints for that which is good on our behalf at all times; and makes us worthy to partake of the communion of His holy and blessed mysteries for the remission of our sins.

Assembly: Lord have mercy

Priest: Therefore we ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover of mankind, grant us to complete this holy day, and all the days of our life, in all peace with Your fear. All envy, all temptation, all the work of Satan, the counsel of wicked men and the rising up of enemies, hidden and manifest.

*The Priest blesses himself, making the sign of the cross, saying:*

Take them away from us.

*The Priest blesses the Assembly, making the sign of the cross, saying:*

And from all Your people,

*The Priest blesses the Assembly, making the sign of the cross, saying:*

And from this table, and from this holy place that is yours. But those things which are good and profitable do provide us, for it is You Who have given us the authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and upon all the power of the enemy. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, by the grace, compassion, and love of mankind of Your Only-Begotten Son; our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. Through Whom the glory, the honor, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto You, with Him and the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver Who is of one essence with You; Now and at all times and unto the age of all ages. Amen

## 5. Syriac Hymn (by the Syrian Church, in Syriac)

“Our Lord, Mercy on us,  
Receive our service”

## 6. Reading : 1 Samuel 2:1-10 (in Syriac, Arabic, English)

Hannah’s Prayer

<sup>1</sup> Then Hannah prayed and said:

“My heart rejoices in the LORD;  
in the LORD my horn is lifted high.

My mouth boasts over my enemies,  
for I delight in your deliverance.

<sup>2</sup> “There is no one holy like the  
LORD;

there is no one besides you;  
there is no Rock like our God.

<sup>3</sup> “Do not keep talking so proudly  
or let your mouth speak such  
arrogance,

for the LORD is a God who knows,  
and by him deeds are weighed.

<sup>4</sup> “The bows of the warriors are  
broken,

but those who stumbled are armed  
with strength.

<sup>5</sup> Those who were full hire themselves  
out for food,

but those who were hungry are  
hungry no more.

She who was barren has borne seven  
children,

but she who has had many sons  
pines away.

<sup>6</sup> “The LORD brings death and makes  
alive;

he brings down to the grave and  
raises up.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD sends poverty and  
wealth;

he humbles and he exalts.

<sup>8</sup> He raises the poor from the dust  
and lifts the needy from the ash  
heap;

he seats them with princes  
and has them inherit a throne of  
honor.

“For the foundations of the earth are  
the LORD’s;

on them he has set the world.

<sup>9</sup> He will guard the feet of his faithful  
servants,

but the wicked will be silenced in  
the place of darkness.

“It is not by strength that one  
prevails;

<sup>10</sup> those who oppose the LORD will  
be broken.

The Most High will thunder from  
heaven;

the LORD will judge the ends of the  
earth.

“He will give strength to his king  
and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

## 7. Psalm 23 (*in Italian, Liturgical Armenian (Classical Armenian)*)

**A psalm of David.**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I lack  
nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green  
pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths  
for his name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,<sup>[a]</sup>

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will  
follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the  
LORD

forever.

## 8. Syriac Hymn (*by the Syrian Church, in Syriac*)

“On your doors, O Church, we are standing,  
Day and night, keep us from evil”

## 9. Reading : Ephesians 6:10-20 (*in German, French*)

### The Armor of God

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

## 10. Coptic Hymn (Trisaghion) (*in Coptic*)

**Assembly:** Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of hosts; Heaven and earth are full of Your holy glory.

**Priest:** *The Priest says "Holy " three times as follows. Each time The Priest says 'Agios' the people should make the sign of the cross. While facing east, first time, he blesses himself, making the sign of the cross:*

**Holy**

*Second time, he blesses the deacons to his right, making the sign of the cross:*

**Holy**

*Third time, he turns toward west and blesses the Assembly, making the sign of the cross:*

**Holy**

*The Priest raises his hands up; covered by the two napkins and continues:*

Holy, Holy, Holy, truly O Lord, our God, Who formed us, created us and placed us in the paradise of joy. When we disobeyed Your commandment by the guile of the serpent, we fell from eternal life, and were exiled from the Paradise of joy. You have not abandoned us to the end, but have always visited us through Your holy prophets, and in the last days, You did manifest Yourself to us, who were sitting in

darkness and the shadow of death, through Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who of The Holy Spirit and of the Holy Virgin Mary.

**Assembly:**

Amen

*The deacon brings the censer to the Priest who puts a spoonful of incense into the censer saying:*

**Priest:**

He incarnated and became man and taught us the ways of salvation. He granted us the birth from on high through water and Spirit. He made us unto Himself a Congregation and sanctified us through Your Holy Spirit; He loved his own who are in the world, and gave Himself up for our salvation unto death which reigned over us, whereby we were bound and sold on account of our sins. He descended into Hades through the Cross.

**Assembly:**

Amen. We believe.

**Priest:**

He rose from the dead on the third day; He ascended into the heavens, and sat at Your right hand, o Father; He has appointed a day for recompense, on which He will appear to judge the world in righteousness and give each one according to his deeds.

**Assembly**

*During the next chant anyone who wishes to do so may beat his or her chest following the example of the tax collector who is mentioned in the Bible This is a sign of repentance (being sorry for our sins).*

According to Your mercy, O Lord, and not according to our sins.

## II. Holy Gospel: John 21:15-19 (in Arabic, English)

### Jesus Reinstates Peter

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” <sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

## 12. Sermon (in Arabic, English)

## 13. Litany of the kiss of Peace and Reconciliation

*Reconciliation means to "make peace with". Here it refers to our reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ and our reconciliation with one another. In this prayer the church recalls our fall since the Garden of Eden and God's plan for our salvation. God sent the prophets for us and in the last days He sent His Only Begotten Son ; Who offer Himself a ransom and grant us reconciliation with God; as St. Paul said; "and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross". (Col 1:20).*

### Prayer of Reconciliation and Kiss of Peace according to the Liturgy of St Basil

**Priest:** *The Priest sprinkles drops of water in front of the Assembly saying that he has sinned and asking to forgive him. Then, he dries his hands and stands in front of the altar with awe.*  
Pray. Bless

**The other priests:** You Bless

**Deacon:** Stand up to pray

**Priest:** *The Priest turns westward towards the Assembly and blesses them making the sign of the cross, saying: Peace be with all.*

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**Assembly:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** God, the Great and the Eternal, Who formed man in incorruption; and death which entered into the world by the envy of the devil; You have destroyed, by the life-giving manifestation of Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. You have filled the earth with the heavenly peace; by which the hosts of angels glorify You saying; Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will toward men.

**Deacon:** Pray for perfect peace, love and the holy Apostolic kisses.

**Assembly:** Lord have mercy.

**Priest:** According to Your good will, o God, fill our hearts with Your peace. Cleanse us from all blemish, all guile, all hypocrisy, all malice and the remembrance of evil entailing death. And make us all worthy, O our Master, to greet one another with a holy kiss; that without falling into condemnation, we may partake of Your Immortal and heavenly gift through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**The Priest may continue:** Through Him the glory, the honor, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto You with Him and the Holy Spirit the Gift-giver; Who is in one essence with You; now and at all times, and unto the age of all ages. Amen.

### **The Apostolic Kiss**

*This kiss of peace, which is still exchanged in the Coptic Church, was used from the apostolic era. They used to kiss one another, men kissed men, women kissed women, saying; "Christ is in the midst of us", and the other reply; "He is and will be" We cannot enjoy reconciliation with God in Jesus Christ unless we have peace one another. The Lord Jesus said; " If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. (Matt5:23-24). By this kiss, the Assembly declare that they wish to be one family in Jesus Christ, and every one is forgiving one another. By this way, they can attain the forgiveness for their sins, as Jesus promised; "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you". (Matt6:14)*

**Deacon:** Greet one another with a holy kiss. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Yes, Lord, Who is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, hear us and have mercy upon us. Offer, offer, offer in order. Stand with trembling. Look towards the east. Let us attend.

**Assembly:** *Each person in the Church turns towards the people around him or her and greets them with the 'holy kiss'. This is done by touching the fingertips of the person next to you with your own hands and returning your fingertips and the 'kiss' to your lips. Repeat for all the people around you. At the end, the Assembly sings:*

Through the intercession of the Mother of God, Saint Mary, O Lord grant us the forgiveness of our sins. We worship You, O Christ, with Your good Father and the Holy Spirit, for You have (come) and saved us. The mercy of peace, the sacrifice of praise.

### **14. The Lord's prayer (everyone in his own language)**

### **15. Final blessing and sending forth**

*(by H.G. Dr. Anba Abraham and all Church leaders)*