**Prayer for Gaza**

Merciful God,
You hear our lament and know the suffering of humankind.
Today we cry out to you for all who are suffering in the cruel war in Gaza.
We pray for those who fear for their lives. For all who have lost family members and who mourn their loved ones. For those afflicted by famine and lacking what they need to survive. We pray for all who have been driven from their homes, and we remember those who have been killed.
We have prayed for so long, and we ask: How long, Lord, how long must they and we wait?
God of life, you desire reconciliation and peace. Grant wisdom and the will to those who can create a just peace, so that life may once again have a chance in cities and villages destroyed by the forces of death.
God, we pray.

**Kyrie Eleison**

Jesus Christ,
defender of children and friend of the poor.
Hear our prayer for the children growing up surrounded by bombs and suffering.
We pray that they may glimpse a ray of hope and joy.
We pray for parents who, powerless, must watch their children die.
And we earnestly pray that aid may reach those in desperate need.
We pray for those searching for safe places to seek refuge.
Grant wisdom and strength to those working in hospitals and to all who receive refugees.
God, we pray.

**Kyrie Eleison**

Holy Spirit,
giver of life and comforter in life and death, who shows us what is true and right.
We let the church bells ring to awaken us to continual prayer and to the responsibility for those who suffer as a result of war and injustice. Grant us the will and ability to protect the dignity and fundamental human rights of all people. Lead us on the path of life, peace, and hope.
God, we pray.

**Kyrie Eleison**

(Here one may invite people to light candles and offer silent prayers.)