

CHRISTIAN LITURGY OF COMMEMORATION AND PRAYER for victims at le Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec

“We do not tell lies about our neighbours, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead, we are to come to their defence, speak well of them and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.” – Martin Luther

Organ Prelude

STAND

Gathering song

“When pain of the world surrounds us” **Nr. 704**, *hymn book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

Opening Prayer

P The Lord be with you;

All and also with you.

P Let us pray.

Grant, O God,

that your holy, life-giving Spirit

would move every human heart

so that barriers which divide us might be dismantled,

so that mis-trust and suspicion disappear,

so that hate comes to an end.

May we live without divisions and celebrate you as our one creator,

God who is great and who guides us in ways of peace.

All Amen.

Reflections

SIT

Psalm 37 *-select verses*

please read responsively with the leader

Do not fret because of the wicked;

do not be envious of wrongdoers,

for they will soon fade like the grass,

and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord, and do good;

so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

Take delight in the Lord,

and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;

trust in him, and he will act.

He will make your vindication shine like the light,

and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;

do not fret over those who prosper in their way,

over those who carry out evil schemes.

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

**Our steps are made firm by the Lord,
when he delights in our way;
though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,
for the Lord holds us by the hand.**

Depart from evil, and do good;
so you shall abide for ever.
For the Lord loves justice;
he will not forsake his faithful ones.

**Wait for the Lord, and keep to his way,
and he will exalt you to inherit the land;
you will look on the destruction of the wicked.**

Mark the blameless, and behold the upright,
for there is a future
for people who are at peace
But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed;
the future of the wicked shall be cut off.

**The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
you are their refuge in the time of trouble.
The Lord helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.**

Psalm Prayer

P Let us pray:
God our strength,
give us the humility to trust in your loving care,
and the patience to be faithful in seeking your way,
that we may come to share in the inheritance of all the faithful who have gone before us.
All Amen.

Message from a member of the Muslim Community

Statement from National Lutheran Bishop Susan Johnson

STAND

Hymn

“In deepest night” **Nr. 699**, *hymn book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

SIT

Rite of Commemoration

P God our creator,

through whose goodness we enjoy life:

Turn now our eyes to your mercy in this time of confusion and loss.

Comfort our province and nation as we mourn;

shine your light on those who feel they are in fear and darkness,

especially all in the Muslim community

and most especially those who suffer from the horrors of the shooting at le Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec in Quebec City.

Bring light to the darkness

that has caused acts of violence, hatred, and attack against our fellow human beings,

our sisters and brothers who share our belief in the one God.

Shine your light on those whose only companion is darkness.

Help us, in now bringing our lights,

to express a wish of prayer, as we place a candle.

Let the six lights burning before us be a reminder of the six lives cut short

and teach us all to number our days that we may apply our hearts to your wisdom.

May the six lights burning bring light to the families who suffer, are diminished, and in mourning.

Remember in your mercy, O God:

As each name is read, a bell is tolled.

Mamadou Tanou Barry,

Abdelkrim Hassane,

Khaled Belkacemi,

Aboubaker Thabti,

Azzeddine Soufiane

Ibrahima Barry

Gather our prayers as we come forward to place a light

and in that action signal hope in your greater majesty and eternal glory.

Adapted and greatly expanded from EvLW prayer for "Time of civil mourning."

As the cantor chants the following, you are invited to come forward and place a votive (wish) light surrounding the six lights in commemoration of the victims who died.

Music

SIT

After all lights have been placed:

Reading

Saint Paul points out the marks of a Christian in his letter to the congregation in first century Rome:

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. *Romans 12: 9-21*

STAND

Prayer Litany *based in part on Psalm 13*

P How long, O Lord?
Will you forget me forever?

All How long will you hide your face from me?

P How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

All How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

Silence

P Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!
All Give light to my eyes or I will sleep in death,

P And my enemy will say, "I have defeated you";
All My foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

Silence

P But I trusted in your unfailing love;
My heart is joyful because of your saving help.

**All I will sing to the Lord
who has dealt with me richly.**

Silence

P Almighty, one God,
you are our hope and a certain help in time of trouble.
Bonds of humanity have been broken,
and we grieve at the darkness of racism, intolerance, and violence.
Let the lights here burning be a sign that each of can bring light.

**All Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
hope is stronger than despair.**

P You walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death,
we will fear no evil;

**All For you are with us;
a light that shines in the darkness**

and the darkness can not overcome it.

P Believing in the promises revealed to us by Almighty God,
we look with confidence toward that day when every tear shall be wiped away,
suffering and pain shall be no more,
and all things will be made new.
Help us by your Holy Spirit to continue to live in hope,
assured of your power in our lives
and trusting in your never-failing love.

Song (all):

No. 721, “Goodness is stronger than Evil”

Sharing of a Sign of Peace

Greet one another with a sign of peace (a handshake, kiss, hug, smile . . .)

Sending Song

“O God of every Nation” **Nr. 713**, *hymn book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

Postlude



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Eglise luthérienne au Canada

In Mission for Other

January 30, 2017

Dear members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada,

“I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.” - *Matthew 25:35*

Grace and peace to you.

I am writing to you following the horrific events that occurred last night at a Quebec City mosque during Sunday night prayers.

Freedom of conscience and religion is named first among the fundamental rights of the people of this land in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. How utterly devastating to instill fear and terror in a place where we are supposed to feel safe and welcome.

I want to pass along my deepest condolences to our brothers and sisters who experienced these events last night. Our hearts and prayers reach out to the families of those who were killed, those who were hurt, their families, and all who feel the impact of this terrible act of violence. We extend our commitment to stand with Muslims across Canada.

I call on the members of our church to reach out in a genuine expression of love for our neighbour as we stand in solidarity with the community of le Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec and speak out against all forms of racism and violence against Muslims. Let us pray:

God, our refuge and strength, we lift up before you the victims, families, and community of le Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec. We pray that you would send comfort, healing, and peace to all who mourn. Strengthen us to stand with Muslims across Canada and to speak out against all forms of racism, intolerance and violence. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Susan C. Johnson,
National Bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada