

As we enter into the eucharistic mystery this Sunday, we gather twenty years after terror attacks perpetrated here in our land – *indeed our very city* – by those persuaded to slaughter in the very name of G-D: a perplexing human delusion tragically haunting human history.

Heirs of the ancient covenant made with Abraham and Sarah, we Christians share that very same covenant with Jew and Muslim alike – as also we sadly share a tragic history stalked by the claim of human violence justified in the name of G-D:

- For Christian: the *crusade*
- For Jew: the *milhemet*
- For Muslim: the *jihad*

As we enter into the eucharistic mystery of the saving passion of Jesus, the Christ – putting an end to all sacrifice and every impulse toward violence by the blood of his cross – we repent of any and every temptation to ever again speak of holy war waged in the name of G-D:

Lord Jesus, calling the Apostle, Simon the Zealot, to lay down his sword...Lord have mercy

Christ Jesus, commanding Peter to return his sword to his scabbard...Christ have mercy

Lord Jesus, Prince of peacemakers called blessed in the kingdom of G-D...Lord have mercy

May almighty G-D have mercy upon us,

Forgiving us sin,

Bringing us everlasting life.

R. - AMEN.

We pray this day and all days:

- For all those whose lives were taken on that smoldering day . . .
- For the valiant vanquished in their endeavor to save others . . .
- For friends and families yet mourning vanished loved ones . . .
- For those who spend their lives seeking justice for others . . .
- For those who spend their lives building bonds of peace . . .
- For the grace to fulfill Jesus command to love our enemies . . .

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Jesus of Nazareth – Gospel of Matthew 5:44

