
Torah Portion: Sh'mini, Leviticus 9:1-11:47
Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-25

An Urgent Prayer for the Protection of Human Life

*Eloheinu, Elohei chol basar,
Yotzreinu, Yotzer bereshit*

אלהינו אלהי כל בשר
יוצֵרנו יוצֵר בְּרֵאשִׁית

Our God, God of all human beings,
Who created each person with a spark of the Divine,

we pray for the urgent protection of human life.

May we recall that You give life to all, and sustain all life through Your love,
and may we remember Your instruction to us
that preserving life is our highest duty in our service to You,

אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה אַתֶּם הָאָדָם וְחַי בָּהֶם

that we fulfill our humanity in the safeguarding of human life. (Lev. 18:5)

So, we pray:

May the destruction of innocent life come to an end.

May the ruin that comes from war cease now.

May each life be treated as a sacred treasure, as You have intended.

In a time of growing darkness, grant us the strength to be beacons of light,
defenders of the vulnerable, and champions of justice.

May our hearts be filled with compassion, our minds with wisdom,
and our hands with action,

as we strive to safeguard the dignity and well-being of all Your children.

May none stand idly by the blood of any other.

For we know that

the lives, security and peace of us all –
Jew, Muslim and Christian;
Israeli and Palestinian,

are bound up with each other, all as one.

We are all one and connected.

So, may we fulfill the words of the Psalms:

סוּר מִרָע וַעֲשֵׂה טוֹב בִּקְשׁ שָׁלוֹם וְרִדְפֵהוּ

“Turn away from harm and do good;
Seek peace and pursue it.” (Psalm 34:15)

May we be among those who speak out and resist evil.

May peace and justice fill Your world.

And may we be among those who make peace and pursue justice.

Amen.