

(Remarks made by the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., President, University of Notre Dame, at the Ecumenical Service following the signing of the Peace Treaty, Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D. C., March 26, 1979)

The Christian reaction to the events of this day must be one of unalloyed joy, happiness, and deep satisfaction. If religious persons are committed profoundly to one simple reality all around the world, it must be to peace.

Our Lord's final words, the night before He died, were spoken of peace, during a Seder, a Passover meal, in Jerusalem.

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

"Peace, I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

Let not your hearts be troubled or afraid." (John, 14, 23-27)

Once more, after thirty long years of prayer and negotiation, He has again given us peace in that precious part of the world where He was born, in Bethlehem, Egypt to which He fled from Herod, H'Arretz Israel to which He returned, and where He lived, worked, prayed, died, arose again from the dead, and ascended to His Father. To what two nations on earth might His peace more appropriately belong tonight? He lived in both of them, loved them and their peoples, made them sacred by His presence and His life, His words and His works.

He also said, that same night before He died:

"I have told you all this so that you may find peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but be brave, I have overcome the world." (John, 16, 33)

May we ponder His advice tonight, may all our great leaders who have elaborated this peace ponder His advice -- "Do not be troubled, do not be afraid, be brave." It is our faith in God that gives all of us courage, strength, and peace.

It may not have occurred to you as my two Brothers, Mohammed Abdul and Rabbi Rabinowitz, were speaking earlier, that we three represent three remarkably allied religious faiths.

We all believe in one God -- Allah, Elohim, and in His peace.

We are all three religious of the Book -- religions based on a written revelation, the Old Testament, the Koran, the New Testament, all written in this same part of the world, all speaking often of the treasure of peace. In fact, both Muslims and Jews greet each other with this very word -- peace, Salaam, Shalom.

All three of us hold Jerusalem, a name which means the City of Peace, to be a holy city. Who can forget the psalms of David that were written there ("If I forget you Jerusalem, may my tongue cleave to my palate, my right hand be forgotten." Psalm 137). The long history of the Jewish people has been centered in Jerusalem, even during long centuries of exile when they said from all over the world, "Next year in Jerusalem" -- a cry of hope and anguish. Who can forget the Wailing

Wall, the honored dead who lie in peace nearby. The Muslims cherish Jerusalem for the Mosque of Omar, the Dome of the Rock -- the third most blessed place on earth -- from which the Holy Prophet ascended into heaven. And for us Christians, who can ever forget the Holy Sepulchre, Golgotha, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Via Dolorosa, Bethlehen, Nazareth, Galilee.

For all three of us, this is a holy land, in a way, the umbilical of the world, the area from which some of our most cherished religious beliefs originate and find their home -- like the Ten Commandments in the Sinai.

At last, for Egyptians and Israeli and their blessed lands and peoples, peace has come, peace, the blessed fruit of vision, courage, and generosity, on the part of Sadat, Begin, and Carter. May we thank God this night for the blessed outcome of their common efforts, this peaceful answer to all our prayers.

May we also now remember well that peace is not just the absence of war, but a frame of mind, an attitude that is best expressed in the ancient Latin adage, *opus justitiae pax* -- peace is the work of justice.

Peace we have tonight, but peace we will maintain only by works of justice, that as the Koran, Isaiah, and the Evangelists say, we must feed the hungry, give a dwelling to the homeless, take in the stranger, help the widows and orphans, in a word, do justice to all those who suffer. Without justice, especially to the poor, the homeless, and the hopeless, there will be no peace.

All our three religious faiths are agreed in this: We best serve the one Holy God, we best maintain peace, we best love our neighbor, by giving ourselves to works of justice throughout these lands which have cradled the best and the worst of mankind's endless struggle to attain peace at last.

Now that we have peace, we pray to Our God to inspire and to help us nurture this peace and to deepen its blessings in all of our lives by committing ourselves to justice.

May I conclude with a prayer for my fellow Christians that was offered at Mass yesterday throughout the world. It seems especially appropriate to this special open moment in the long and often weary history of our times:

Let us pray

God Our Father, Your Word, Jesus Christ, spoke peace to a sinful world and brought mankind a gift of reconciliation by the suffering and death He endured. Teach us, the people who bear His name, to follow the example He gave us: May our faith, hope, and charity turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, death to eternal life. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Salaam Aleicum, Shalom, Peace, be with you all.