



Statement from Bishop Dr. Ibrahim Azar on the Passing of Pope Francis

April 21, 2025 - Jerusalem

Together with all the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, I join our Christian brothers and sisters around the world in mourning the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis, who died this Easter Monday at the age of 88. Though we join the people of the world in grief, we have hope in the promise of the resurrection and of the life everlasting in Christ.

We give thanks for the life and ministry of Pope Francis and remember with joy and gratitude his heart for ecumenical dialogue and his commitment to fostering greater unity among the Christian family. His compassion and humility guided him to build bridges that will impact our world for years to come.

We also remember and honor his devotion to the teachings of Christ and his intense commitment to uplifting the poor and vulnerable. His advocacy for the most marginalized among us extended to Gaza, where he remained faithful in calling the Catholic Church there on a regular basis, even from his hospital bed. His unwavering voice for peace and justice will never be forgotten by the Palestinian community.

In this time of sorrow, we offer our condolences and prayers to our brothers and sisters of the Catholic Church, Jerusalem Patriarch Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, and all who mourn the passing of God's servant, Pope Francis. May his memory serve as an inspiration to all to live the lives of justice and compassion that Christ calls us to, and to be voices for peace in our world. May he be granted eternal rest with our Savior.

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26

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