Psalm 122

[1] A song of ascents. Of David.
I rejoiced when they said to me,
"We are going to the House of the LORD."
[2] Our feet stood inside your gates, O Jerusalem,
[3] Jerusalem built up, a city knit together,
[4] to which tribes would make pilgrimage,
the tribes of the LORD,
—as was enjoined upon Israel—
to praise the name of the LORD.
[5] There the thrones of judgment stood,
thrones of the house of David.
[6] Pray for the well-being of Jerusalem;
"May those who love you be at peace.
[7] May there be well-being within your ramparts,
peace in your citadels."
[8] For the sake of my kin and friends,
I pray for your well-being;
[9] for the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I seek your good.

Shavua Tov, Har Zion.

This past Friday was Yom Yerushalayim, the day that commemorates the Israeli conquest of East Jerusalem in the Six Day War of 1967, and the subsequent reunification of the city. Jerusalem, which had spent the 18 years since the end of the War of Independence divided - the western portion under Israeli control, and the eastern portion under Jordanian control - was unified. There was a great effort in the aftermath of the 1967 war to knit the two halves of the city together - socially, politically, and economically. As you can imagine, it was not as easy as people had hoped.

In this psalm, we talk about our pilgrimages to the city. While the pilgrimages refered to here may been directed toward the Temple, Jews never stopped making journeys to the Holy Land. As we all know, after two thousand years, we have a State with its capital in Jerusalem. It may not be the thrones of the house of David, but we hope that the State stands for judgment - fair and impartial, and that peace and well-being reign in the city. Let us look forward to a day when the stitches holding the sides of the city together are not so much like sutures holding a wound closed but are more like those of a tapestry, where the different colors and textures work together to produce a beautiful product that everyone can be proud of.