



**8th EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER
OF ALL CHURCHES
FOR RECONCILIATION, UNITY AND PEACE
BEGINNING IN AND PROCEEDING FROM JERUSALEM**

**2nd of June 2012
Eve of the Orthodox Pentecost**

**Armenian Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Spasm
3rd, 4th Station of the Via Crucis
JERUSALEM**

Presided over by Mgr. Joseph Kelekian
Patriarcal Exarches of Jerusalem for the Armenian Catholic Church



1. Introduction – Welcome speech

2. The prayer of Lord

Our Father...

3. Psalm 143

Ant. May your generous spirit lead me, Lord, on even ground.

Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my pleading, in your constancy answer me, in your saving justice.

Do not put your servant on trial, for no one living can be found guiltless at your tribunal.

An enemy is in deadly pursuit, crushing me into the ground, forcing me to live in darkness.

Like those long dead, my spirit is faint, and within me my heart is numb with fear.

I recall the days of old, reflecting on all your deeds; I ponder the works of your hands.

I stretch out my hands to you, my heart like a land thirsty for you.

Answer me quickly, Lord, my spirit is worn out.

Do not turn away your face from me, or I shall be like those who sink into oblivion.

Let dawn bring news of your faithful love, for I place my trust in you.

Show me the road I must travel, for you to relieve my heart.

Rescue me from my enemies, since in you I find protection.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my god. May your generous spirit lead me on even ground.

Lord, for the sake of your name, in your saving justice give me life, rescue me from distress.

In your faithful love, destroy all my enemies and all those who oppress me, for I am your servant.

4. Reading from the Acts (2, 1-21)

When Pentecost day came around, they had all met together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of



fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, and each one was bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished, “Surely”, they said, all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; residents of Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.” Everyone was amazed and perplexed; they asked one another what it all meant. Some, however, laughed it off. “They have been drinking too much new wine,” they said.

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed them in a loud voice:

“Men of Judaea, and you who live in Jerusalem, make no mistake about this, but listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you imagine; why, it is only the third hour of the day. On the contrary, this is what the prophet was saying:

In the last days – the Lord declares – I shall pour out my Spirit on all humanity. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions, your old people dream dreams. Even on the slaves, men and women, shall I pour out my Spirit. I will show portents in the sky above and signs on the earth below. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the day of the Lord comes, that great and terrible Day. And all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

5. Alleluia

May your generous spirit lead me, Lord, on even ground.

6. Reading of the four Gospels

The reading of the four gospels, followed by the blessing of the four corners of the world, is a typical rite of the Armenian Church, traditionally practised on Palm Sunday, at Easter, Pentecost and various other liturgical feasts.



1st Gospel : Reading from the Gospel of John (15,26 – 16,14)

Jesus said: “When the Paraclete comes, whom I shall send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness. And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning.

I have told you all this, so that you may not fall away. They will expel you from the synagogues, and indeed the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is doing a holy service to God. They will do these things because they have never known either the Father or me. But I have told you all this, so that when the time for it comes, you may remember that I told you.

I did not tell you this from the beginning, because I was with you; but now I am going to the one who sent me. No one of you asks: where are you going? Yet you are sad at heart because I have told you this. Still, I am telling you the truth: it is for your own good that I am going, because unless I go, the Paraclete will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will show the world how wrong it was, about sin, and about who was in the right, and about judgement: about sin, in that they refuse to believe in me; about who was in right, in that I am going to the Father and you will see me no more; about judgement, in that the prince of this world is already condemned.

I still have many things to say to you, but they would be too much for you to bear now. However, when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking of his own accord, but will say only what he has been told; and he will reveal to you the things to come. He will glorify me, since all he reveals to you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: all he reveals to you will be taken from what is mine.”

1st Hymn : Nooyn yev neman... (the dove apostle)

Like and equal to the Father and the Son, uncreated Spirit and of the same substance, who proceeds from the Father towards of the Son in an unexplainable manner; you came down today on the Cenacle, and gave them to drink the graces of your spirit. Give us also, in your mercy a drink from the cup of your wisdom.



2nd Gospel : Reading from the Gospel of John (16, 20 – 28)

Jesus said: “In all truth I tell you, you will be weeping and wailing while the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. A woman in childbirth suffers, because her time has come; but when she has given birth to the child she forgets the suffering in her joy that a human being has been born into the world. So it is with you: you are sad now, but I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy, and the joy no one shall take from you.

When that day comes, you will not ask me any questions. In all truth I tell you, anything you ask from the Father he will grant in my name. Until now you have not asked anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and so your joy will be complete. I have been telling you these things in veiled language. The hour is coming when I shall no longer speak to you in veiled language but tell you about the Father in plain words;

When that day comes you will ask in my name; and I do not say that I shall pray to the Father for you, because the Father himself loves you for loving me and believing that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world and now I am leaving the world to go to the Father.”

2nd Hymn: Eyits sdeghdzogh araradzotz...

Creator of all beings, who (before the creation) were sweeping over the waters; you come down on the baptismal water to give us the grace to be sons of the Father; you caress us with a dove's love, generating men similar to God. Give us also, in your mercy, a drink from the cup of your wisdom.

3rd Gospel : Reading from the Gospel of John (17, 1 – 12)

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: “Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; so that, just as you have given him power over all humanity, he may give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world existed. I have revealed your name to those whom you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now at last they have recognised that all you have given me comes from you, for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and



they have indeed accepted it and know for certain that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me.

It is for them that I pray. I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. All I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us.

While I was with them, I kept those you had given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one is lost except one who was destined to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures.”

3rd Hymn : Rapoon vernetz panavoratz...

Master of heavenly knowledge and lord of earthly sentiments; who turns shepherds into prophets, fishermen into apostles, collectors into evangelists, persecutors into heralds of the gospel. Give us also, in your mercy a drink from the cup of your wisdom.

4th Gospel : Reading from the Gospel of John (17, 12 – 26)

Jesus said: “But now I am coming to you and I say these things in the world to share my joy with them to the full. I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world.

I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the Evil One. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth. I pray not only for these but also for those who through their teaching will come to believe in me.

May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me. I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so perfected in unity that the world will recognise that it was you who sent me and that you have loved them as you loved me.

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see my glory which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Father, Upright One, the world has



not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.”

4th Hymn : Sern I sirooyñ sert arakyatz...

Love from Love sent you as love, to unite his members to him. The Church he has founded, you based it on your seven columns. You established the Apostles as administrators over it, and adorned it with your seven graces. We ask you to disperse the fog of our sins and to cloth us with the light of your glory.

7. The Blessing of the four corners of the world (“Andastan”)

(all celebrants gather in circle, the leading celebrant looking towards the altar. One celebrant holds a great cross; he looks towards the leading celebrant. Another celebrant holds the Gospel. The deacon holds the censer. The Assembly lights candles and follows the celebrants’ moves)

East (Blessing of the East and all the Patriarchs):

May it be blessed, protected and kept with the help of the Providence the eastern part of the world and all the patriarchs of the Orient, by means of the sign of the Cross, the holy Gospel and the day’s grace, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always, and for ever and ever.

- Amen, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

(all make a half of a circle turn to the left)

West (Blessing of the West and all the Christian States): May it be blessed, protected and kept with the help of the Providence the western part of the world and all the Christian states, by means of the sign of the Cross, the holy Gospel and the day’s grace, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always, and for ever and ever.

- Amen, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

(all make a quarter of a circle turn to the left)

South (Blessing of the South and of the fertile lands): May it be blessed, protected and kept with the help of the Providence the southern part of the world and all the fertile lands, by means of the sign of the Cross, the holy



Gospel and the day's grace, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always, and for ever and ever.

- Amen, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

(all make a half of a circle turn to the left)

North (Blessing of the North and of the convents, cities and villages):

May it be blessed, protected and kept with the help of the Providence the northern part of the world and all the cities, villages, convents, deserts, and all the people living there, by means of the sign of the Cross, the holy Gospel and the day's grace, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always, and for ever and ever.

- Amen, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

(all make a quarter of a circle turn to the right)

8. VESPER

Trinity glorification

Glory to God, glory for all things he gave us.

Let's pray also for peace, so that the Lord may accept our supplications and have mercy on us.

Blessing and glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always, and for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 86

Listen to me, Lord, answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Guard me, for I am faithful, save your servant who relies on you.

You are my God, take pity on me, Lord, for to you I cry all the day.

Fill your servant's heart with joy, Lord, for to you I raise up my heart.

Lord, you are kind and forgiving, rich in faithful love for all who call upon you.

Yahweh, hear my prayer, listen to the sound of my pleading.

In my day of distress I call upon you, because you answer me, Lord.

Among the gods there is none to compare with you, no great deeds to compare with yours.

All nations will come and adore you, Lord, and give glory to your name.

For you are great and do marvellous deeds, you, God, and none other.

Teach me, Yahweh, your ways, that I may not stray from your loyalty, let my heart's one aim be to fear your name.



I thank you with all my heart, Lord my God, I will glorify your name for ever.

For your faithful love for me is so great that you have rescued me from the depths of Sheol.

Arrogant man, God, are rising up against me, a brutal gang is after my life, in their scheme of things you have no place.

But you Lord, God of tenderness and mercy, slow to anger, rich in faithful love and loyalty, turn to me and pity me.

Give too your servant your strength, to the child of your servant your saving help, give me a sign of your kindness.

My enemies will see to their shame that you, Yahweh, help and console me.

Psalm 141

Lord, I am calling, hurry to me, listen to my voice when I call to you.

May my prayer be like incense in your presence, my uplifted hands like the evening sacrifice.

Mount a guard over my mouth, a guard at the door of my lips.

Check any impulse to speak evil, to share the fool deeds of evil-doers.

I shall not sample their delights, may the upright correct me with a friend's rebuke.

But the wicked shall never anoint my head with oil, for that would make me party to their crimes.

They are delivered into the power of the rock, their judge, those who took pleasure in hearing me say,

Like a shattered millstone on the ground, our bones are scattered at the mouth of Sheol.

To you, Lord, I turn my eyes, in you I take refuge, do not leave me unprotected.

Save me from the traps that are set for me, the snares of evil doers.

Let the wicked fall each into his own net, while I pass on my way.

Prayer for the light

Blessed Lord, who art in heaven, blessed be the greatness of your glory. You established the luminous beings in heaven and from there you have illuminated the entire universe: you created the sun, to illumine the day, the moon and the stars, to illumine the night, and the candle's light. You are the perfect light, holy and initial, the darkness run away from you; keep lighted our hearts by your living light, so that we all together will say: blessed be



the light of your glory; blessings and glory, to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always, for ever and ever. Amen.

Deacon's invocations

Let's say all together, Lord have mercy.

-Lord, have mercy.

For the conversion of mankind, for reconciliation and for peace all over the world, starting in the hearts, and for the stability and unity of the Church, according to your Will, we pray you.

-Lord, have mercy.

For the Patriarchs of Jerusalem, Teophilos, Fouad and Torgom, for all the Patriarchs of your Church in the world, we pray you.

-Lord, have mercy.

For all the bishops of your Church, in Jerusalem and in the world, we pray you.

-Lord, have mercy.

For all the priests, deacons and servants of your Church, in Jerusalem and in the world, we pray you.

-Lord, have mercy.

For all governors of states who love the Lord and those who do not know Him, in this Holy Land and in the world, we pray you.

-Lord, have mercy.

For the travellers, that they may arrive safely to their destination, we pray you.

-Lord, lead them and have mercy.

For the sick and all who suffers, that they may recover health, we pray you.

-Lord, cure them and have mercy.

For the mildness of the weather, the rainy season to give fertility to the ground, we pray you.

-Lord, grant and have mercy.

For the pilgrims and benefactors of the holy Church of God, we pray you.

-Lord, receive them and have mercy.

For them who are persecuted for their love of Jesus-Christ and for righteousness' sake, we pray you.

-Lord, strengthen them and have mercy.

For all our dead, who died in faith of Jesus-Christ, we pray you.

-Lord, remember them and have mercy.



Through the intercession of the holy Mary, Virgin and Mother, always venerated and blessed, of Saint John the Baptist, Saint Stephen the first martyr, the Holy Apostles and Prophets, all the martyrs and virgins, and our great confessor, Saint Gregory the Illuminator and first Patriarch of Armenia, receive, Lord, our prayers.

-Lord, hear us and have mercy.

Evening Prayer

Lord our God, listen to our prayers and grant our supplications when we rise up our hands towards you, claiming our demands and wrapping our evening liturgy with the delicious perfume of the incense, prepared to please you.

Increase in us, Almighty Lord, faith, hope, charity and all virtuous works, so that, praying always day and night with confidence, according to your good will, we shall be worthy to implore our soul's salvation from you, by means of our spiritual life, and we may receive your pity, giving you glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always, for ever and ever. Amen.

Peace be with you – and also with you

We adore you, Lord our God, we give you thanks because of this day, during which we lived in peace. We ask you, Lord, that we may pass this evening and this coming night without sins, avoiding scandalous acts, remaining always strongly in the faith, hope and charity, and in the observance of your commandments. Give peace to all the world, stability for your Church and salvation of our souls. So that receiving all our requests, we may raise always to you the glory of your magnificence and the praise of your power, Christ our Lord, now and always, and for ever and ever. Amen.

Trisagion

Holy God, holy and powerful, holy and eternal, have mercy on us (3 times)

Psalm 122

I rejoiced that they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord.

At last our feet are standing at your gates, Jerusalem!

Jerusalem, built as a city, *in one united whole*,

There the tribes go up, the tribes of Yahweh.

A sign for Israel to give thanks to the name of the Lord.



For there are set the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, prosperity for your homes.

Peace within your walls, prosperity in your palaces.

For love of my brothers and my friends, I will say, "Peace upon you"!

For love of the house of Yahweh our God, I will pray for your well being.

Hymn of the day

The dove sent from the heaven came down with a loud voice, who resembles the clarity of the light, filled up the Apostles with fire which doesn't burn, when they were gathered in the Cenacle.

Deacon's invitation

Let us thank the generous Spirit of God and ask for mercy, so that, according to his goodness, he may take away from us the punishment for our sins.

- Almighty Lord, listen to us and have mercy.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit for Peace, and exchange of Peace

Holy Spirit, true God, with your peace which exceeds our reason and our thoughts, console the souls of your servants by receiving our prayers. According to your goodness, remove the punishment of our mistakes; forgive us our sins, listen to us and make us worthy to thank you and glorify, with the Father and the Son, now and always, and for ever and ever. Amen.

(all exchange Peace)

9. The prayer of Lord (each in his own language)

Our Father...

10. Final Blessing (all celebrants together)

