



FROM JERUSALEM, THE CALL FOR AN



EXTRAORDINARY ACTION OF PRAYER BY THE CHURCH FOR RECONCILIATION, UNITY AND PEACE



All Christian communities and all individual Christians are invited to participate in the extraordinary prayer of the Church for Reconciliation, Unity and Peace, **beginning in and preceding from Jerusalem** (Luke 24:47), with trust that these prayer intentions will then be realized in the entire world, in accord with the unique vocation of the Holy City: that of being the historic and symbol departure point of the most beautiful promises and prophecies of the Scriptures, and of being a place of particular grace for the human family (Is 2: 1-5).

For the Christian, the division of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, *profoundly conditions the general lack of Peace*. The Mother Church of Jerusalem calls, therefore, the whole Church to an extraordinary action of prayer for the grace of Reconciliation, Unity and Peace, *beginning in the Holy City*: an action of prayer which manifests, by its very nature, the adhesion to Unity that is requested thereby. The Mother Church of Jerusalem calls to a great intercessory prayer for our time, spontaneous and joyful, born in the heart of Christians inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The foundational principle is that *all Christians pray together, at the same time, for the same intentions*. If the union of prayer in the name of Christ comprises the promise of His presence with us (Matt 18:19-20), the communion of prayer of Christians truly prefigures Reconciliation and Unity in Spirit within the Church: “³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13: 35).

All Christians are strongly encouraged to further diffuse this prayer of deep and intense faith, in this spirit, so that the prayer of the whole Church might be fully realised.

The basic proposal is to **practice one hour of prayer every Saturday between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Holy Land, or between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. local time, throughout the rest of the world**. For those who are unable to participate fully, **a reduced participation (of even a few minutes!) is suggested**, but preferably, at the indicated time.

« The more an epoch is submerged in the night of sin and distance from God, the more it needs people of prayer united to God. And God does not allow them to fail. From the most obscure night advance the greatest prophets and saints. For the most part, however, this river of mystical life which is formed remains invisible. To be sure, the decisive turning points of human history are essentially conditioned by souls who are addressed by no history books.. And we ourselves will not know to whom we owe the decisive turning points of our personal life until the Day on which all that is hidden is revealed. »

Edith Stein

INTENTIONS

- 1) For Peace in Jerusalem, for Peace in the Holy Land
- 2) For the Mother Church of Jerusalem, that she might fully respond to her vocation of inspiring and promoting Unity among Christians and of inspiring and promoting inter-religious dialogue
- 3) For the unification of the date of Easter among Christians, in view of Unity in Spirit

Additional information and the complete structure of the prayer are available at www.prayerreconciliationunitypeace.info or www.prayrup.info



WEEKLY PRAYER EVERY SATURDAY

(AT 7 P.M. IN THE HOLY LAND OR AT 6 P.M. LOCAL TIME, THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD)

All Christians are invited to participate privately or in community in this hour of prayer every Saturday. The proposal is to participate in a Eucharistic Celebration or in a Holy Communion – the Church's great prayer of intercession – while keeping in heart the intentions of the extraordinary prayer for Reconciliation, Unity and Peace.

Alternatively (see below), a sequence of five biblical readings (or chosen excerpts thereof) with an exposition of the intentions of this extraordinary prayer is proposed. It is suggested that this be accompanied by prayers typical of the Christian community to which one belongs (acathistos hymn, rosary, etc.), and by hymns, adoration or silent prayer.

In Jerusalem, a presence of prayer at the Holy Sepulchre is ensured.

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Ps(s)85 (84): 1-14 ; Zech 9: 9-10 ; Acts 2: 1-2 ; Is 42: 13-16 ; Matt 26: 1-5

SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Is 30: 19-26; Is 40: 1-5; Jer 3: 12-17; John 17: 22-26; Luke 22: 14-20

THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Is 52: 7-10 ; Hag 2: 6-9; Tob 13: 10b-18 ; John 13: 1-16; Num 9: 1-5

FOURTH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

Is 8: 23-9,6 ; Mic 5: 1-4; Eph 4: 1-6 ; 1 Cor 1: 10-13; 2 Kgs 23: 21-23

PARTICULAR PRAYER INTENTIONS AT THE END OF THE READINGS

Let us pray for Peace in Jerusalem and in the Holy Land, so that from Jerusalem, Peace may diffuse into the Church. Let us pray for Peace in the Church, for Peace in the various Christian families and communities; for Peace in the Church between the different Christian communities; for Peace among the various Christian denominations. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit, that He might bring Peace into our hearts, from whence Peace must precede and be diffused.

Let us pray for Peace in Jerusalem and in the Holy Land, so that from Jerusalem, Peace may diffuse into the world. Let us pray for Peace in the world, for Peace within civil societies; for Peace between nations, peoples and cultures; Let us pray for Peace within and among all religious denominations of the world, and in particular, for Peace among the three monotheistic religions who profess a common faith in the God of Abraham. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit, that He may bring Peace into our hearts, because it is within the heart that one decides for Peace.

Let us pray for the Mother Church of Jerusalem, that she may fully respond to her vocation of inspiring and promoting Unity within the Church; let us pray for all Christian denominations present in Jerusalem to lower their voices, so that the Voice of the Lord, the Almighty, might be heard and heeded; let us pray for the Unity of the Church to be realised in Jerusalem and from Jerusalem. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit, so that He may dispose our hearts for Unity, because God's Love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray for the Unity of the Church, that Christians may hear the suffering cry of Christ due to the laceration of His Mystical Body, the Church; let us pray so that Unity in Spirit may be achieved, all in respecting the treasures of the different Christian traditions, as a source of richness for the whole Church; let us pray so that Unity may be accomplished around One Tabernacle, according to Christ's desire. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit, that He may dispose our hearts for Unity, because it is within the heart that conversion takes place.

Let us pray for the unified celebration of the holy feast of Easter; let us pray for Christians, that they might unanimously decide upon a common date for celebrating the Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection; Let us pray that Christ might sustain this first step of bringing the Church to full Unity in Spirit. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit, that He might dispose the hearts of those to whom is entrusted the decision for a unified celebration of Easter among Christians, so that the Love of God might be manifested in their hearts.

