

EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER BY THE CHURCH FOR RECONCILIATION, UNITY AND PEACE

SATURDAY PRAYER

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

EXTRAORDINARY
ACTION OF PRAYER



RECONCILIATION
UNITY & PEACE

The Saturday prayer is observed 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 (with different readings for each Saturday) or chosen excerpts thereof on the themes of the extraordinary prayer, with a development of the intentions of the prayer are proposed. It is suggested to accompany them with prayers typical of the Christian community to which one belongs (acathistos hymn, rosary, etc.), accompanied by hymns, adoration or silent prayer.

Christians who are attached to the Virgin Mary, Mother of God and of mankind, are invited to entrust the prayer to her privileged intercession (*Deesis*).





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



1) For Peace in Jerusalem, for Peace in the Holy Land

This intention originates out of the consciousness that to Jerusalem and the Holy Land is entrusted the unique vocation of being the place wherein is to be realised God's promises for the entire human family. According to the spirit of the Scriptures, Jerusalem has the vocation of spreading, throughout the world, the Peace which is presently still lacking within its own boundaries and within the Holy Land. In this prayer, the Church is aware that there is no Peace without Justice, and that there is no Justice without Forgiveness¹.

2) For the Mother Church of Jerusalem, that it fully responds to its vocation of inspiring and promoting Unity amongst Christians and of inspiring and promoting inter-religious dialogue

This intention is born of the memory of Pentecost, which originated in the Holy City, and of the vocation of the Mother Church of Jerusalem, founded through the Effusion of the Holy Spirit, to inspire and promote Unity among Christians according to the Will of Christ, spring of all Promises and of all Good. The Mother Church of all Churches asks of them an assiduous and intense prayer so that Unity in the Spirit might be achieved again in her, and so that she might fully respond to her vocation of inspiring and promoting Unity and Peace in the entire Church and of inspiring and promoting dialogue with other religions. The dialogue with the two other monotheistic religions present in Jerusalem is particularly important.

3) For the unification of the date of Easter amongst Christians, in view of Unity in Spirit

The capital sin of the division of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, which is thrown to shreds by the hands of men, puts a strain on all mankind. All Christians must confess this sin and be reconciled with God, by achieving, with the predominant help of grace, the Unity of the Church, which would be a spring of Goodness and Peace for all nations. The non-unified celebration of Easter among Christians is certainly causing inexpressible sufferings to Christ, whose crucifixion is presently being commemorated at different times each year by the various Christian communities. Unity will first be achieved by the unified celebration of the great feast of Easter, with confidence that Christ will assume this first step and bring His Church to full Unity in Spirit.

¹ Message of John Paul II for the celebration of the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2002.



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 Spirit².

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.

² Rom 5: 5



FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH



First reading:

Reading (Ps 85 (84): 1-14)

Second reading:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Zechariah): *Zech 9: 9-10*

Third reading:

Reading (from the Acts of the Apostles): *Acts 2: 1-2*

Fourth reading:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Isaiah): *Is 42: 13-16*

Fifth reading:

Reading (from the Gospel according to Matthew): *Matt 26: 1-5*



SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH



First reading:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Isaiah): *Is 30: 19-26*

Second reading:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Isaiah): *Is 40: 1-5*

Third reading:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Jeremiah): *Jer 3: 12-17*

Fourth reading:

Reading (from the Gospel according to John): *John 17: 22-26*

Fifth reading:

Reading (from the Gospel according to Luke): *Luke 22: 14-20*



THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH



First reading:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Isaiah): *Is 52: 7-10*

Second reading:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Haggai): *Hag 2: 6-9*

Third reading:

Reading (from the book of Tobit): *Tob 13: 10b-18*

Fourth reading:

Reading (from the Gospel according to John): *John 13: 1-16*

Fifth reading:

Reading (from the book of Numbers): *Num 9: 1-5*



FOURTH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH



First reading:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Isaiah): *Is 8: 23-9: 6*

Second reading:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Micah): *Mic 5: 1-4*

Third reading:

Reading (from the Letter to the Ephesians): *Eph 4: 1-6*

Fourth reading:

Reading (from the first Letter of Saint Paul Apostle to the Corinthians): *1 Cor 1: 10-13*

Fifth reading:

Reading (from the second book of Kings): *2 Kgs 23: 21-23*