

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 and intention:

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

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

¹LORD, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah

³You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation towards us.

⁵Will you be angry with us for ever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

⁶Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.*

⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹²The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

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.

Second reading and intention:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Zechariah)

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He* will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the warhorse from Jerusalem;

*and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.*

Zech 9: 9-10

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.

Third reading and intention:

Reading (from the Acts of the Apostles)

²When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' ¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Acts 2: 1-21

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 Spirit³.

Fourth reading and intention:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Isaiah)

¹³The LORD goes forth like a soldier, like a warrior he stirs up his fury; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes. ¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace, I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labour, I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbage; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them.

Is 42: 13-16

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.

Fifth reading and intention:

Reading (from the Gospel according to Matthew)

*¹When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, ²'You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.'
³ Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, ⁴and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, 'Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.'*

Matt 26: 1-5

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

³ Rom 5: 5

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.



SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH



First reading and intention:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Isaiah)

¹⁹ Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. ²⁰Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.' ²²Then you will defile your silver-covered idols and your gold-plated images. You will scatter them like filthy rags; you will say to them, 'Away with you!'

²³ He will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and grain, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. On that day your cattle will graze in broad pastures; ²⁴and the oxen and donkeys that till the ground will eat silage, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork. ²⁵On every lofty mountain and every high hill there will be brooks running with water—on a day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. ²⁶Moreover, the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, like the light of seven days, on the day when the LORD binds up the injuries of his people, and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow.

Is 30: 19-26

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.

Second reading and intention:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Isaiah)

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

Is 40: 1-5

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.

Third reading and intention:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Jeremiah)

¹²Go, and proclaim these words towards the north, and say: Return, faithless Israel, says the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, says the LORD; I will not be angry for ever. ¹³Only acknowledge your guilt, that you have rebelled against the LORD your God, and scattered your favours among strangers under every green tree, and have not obeyed my voice, says the LORD. ¹⁴Return, O faithless children, says the LORD, for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.

Jer 3: 12-17

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 Spirit⁴.

Fourth reading and intention:

Reading (from the Gospel according to John)

²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ 'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

John 17: 22-26

⁴ Rom 5: 5

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.

Fifth reading and intention:

Reading (from the Gospel according to Luke)

¹⁴ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.**

Luke 22: 14-20

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.



THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH



First reading and intention:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Isaiah)

⁷*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'*

⁸*Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.*

⁹*Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.*

¹⁰*The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.*

Is 52: 7-10

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.

Second reading and intention:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Haggai)

⁶*For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; ⁷and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the LORD of hosts. ⁸The silver is mine, and the gold*

is mine, says the LORD of hosts. ⁹The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts.

Hag 2: 6-9

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.

Third reading and intention:

Reading (from the book of Tobit)

¹⁰*Acknowledge the Lord, for he is good,*
and bless the King of the ages,
so that his tent* may be rebuilt in you in joy.*

*May he cheer all those within you who are captives,
and love all those within you who are distressed,
to all generations for ever heaven.*

*Generation after generation will give joyful praise in you;
the name of the chosen city will endure for ever.*

¹¹*A bright light will shine to all the ends of the earth;
many nations will come to you from far away,
the inhabitants of the remotest parts of the earth to your holy name,
bearing gifts in their hands for the King of*

¹²*Cursed are all who speak a harsh word against you;
cursed are all who conquer you
and pull down your walls,
all who overthrow your towers
and set your homes on fire.*

*But blessed for ever will be all who revere you.**

¹³*Go, then, and rejoice over the children of the righteous,
for they will be gathered together
and will praise the Lord of the ages.*

¹⁴*Happy are those who love you,
and happy are those who rejoice in your prosperity.
Happy also are all people who grieve with you
because of your afflictions;*

for they will rejoice with you
 and witness all your glory for ever.
¹⁵My soul blesses* the Lord, the great King!
¹⁶ For Jerusalem will be built* as his house for all ages.
 How happy I will be if a remnant of my descendants should survive
 to see your glory and acknowledge the King of heaven.
 The gates of Jerusalem will be built with sapphire and emerald,
 and all your walls with precious stones.
 The towers of Jerusalem will be built with gold,
 and their battlements with pure gold.
 The streets of Jerusalem will be paved
 with ruby and with stones of Ophir.
¹⁷The gates of Jerusalem will sing hymns of joy,
 and all her houses will cry, "Hallelujah!
 Blessed be the God of Israel!"
 and the blessed will bless the holy name for ever and ever.'

Tob 13: 10b-18

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 Spirit⁵.

Fourth reading and intention:

Reading (from the Gospel according to John)

¹³Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table,* took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' ⁷Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' ⁸Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' ⁹Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' ¹⁰Jesus said to him,

⁵ Rom 5: 5

'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you* are clean, though not all of you.'* ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you?' ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants* are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.

John 13: 1-16

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.

Fifth reading and intention:

Reading (from the book of Numbers)

⁹The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying: ²Let the Israelites keep the passover at its appointed time. ³On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight,* you shall keep it at its appointed time; according to all its statutes and all its regulations you shall keep it. ⁴So Moses told the Israelites that they should keep the passover. ⁵They kept the passover in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight,* in the wilderness of Sinai. Just as the LORD had commanded Moses, so the Israelites did.

Num 9: 1-5

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.



FOURTH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH



First reading and intention:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Isaiah)

**But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. ¹In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.*

*²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.*

*³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.*

*⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

*⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.*

*⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named*

*Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.*

*He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

Is 8: 23-9: 6

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.

Second reading and intention:

Reading (from the book of the prophet Micah)

*⁵Now you are walled around with a wall;
siege is laid against us;
with a rod they strike the ruler of Israel
upon the cheek.*

*²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.*

*³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.*

*⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;*

Mic 5: 1-4

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.

Third reading and intention:

Reading (from the Letter to the Ephesians)

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Eph 4: 1-6

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 Spirit⁶.

Fourth reading and intention:

Reading (from the first Letter of Saint Paul Apostle to the Corinthians)

*¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, * by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. * ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*

1 Cor 1: 10-13

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.

⁶ Rom 5: 5

Fifth reading and intention:

Reading (from the second book of Kings)

²¹The king commanded all the people, 'Keep the passover to the LORD your God as prescribed in this book of the covenant.' ²²No such passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, even during all the days of the kings of Israel and of the kings of Judah; ²³but in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.

2 Kgs 23: 21-23

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.