

# PRAYING for THE UNITY of ALL CHRISTIANS

Christ is the one foundation of the Church  
(1 Corinthians 3: 11)

Various Christian Churches  
throughout the world celebrate  
the WEEK of PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY  
from January 18 – 25 but the search  
and prayer for unity is not just  
appropriated only to these days.  
Pray everyday for Christian Unity.



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We pause and recall that our God is always with us.  
We praise You and we bless You O Triune God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ the Lord.  
She is His new creation by water and the word;  
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,  
by schism rent asunder, by heresies distressed.  
Yet saints their watch are keeping,  
Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

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My sheep will hear My voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.

## **Psalm 118: 16–24**

Open the gates of victory, I will enter and thank the Lord.  
This is the Lord's own gate where the victors enter.  
I thank you for You have answered me and been my Savior.  
The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.  
By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.  
This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.  
Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God His Son; Glory be to the Holy  
Sprit, Three in One.

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## A Litany of Forgiveness

Lord, You are peace and reconciliation!

Forgive us Lord, for often choosing jealousy and animosity rather than confidence and respect among churches.

Lord, You give us an abundance of blessings in the unity of faith!

Forgive us Lord, for often choosing isolation and refusing to be a blessing for each other and between churches.

Lord, You have given joy to the afflicted, liberation to captives, and pardon to sinners!

Forgive us, Lord, for having closed our hands and turned our faces from those who need help.

Lord, You have gathered us together as a shepherd gathers his flock and then goes to seek the one sheep that was lost!

Forgive us, Lord, for having often strayed far from You and pushed You away, thus underlining our divisions.

Let us pray

Lord, no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid. That foundation is Jesus Christ.

We admit that we have not been able to finish building on this foundation in such a way that we may become the dwelling place of God.

We have sometimes even been the cause of its ruin.

Even if our work should be lost,

save us Lord and give us a fresh chance to work for unity.

Create for us an ardent longing for the unity of Your Church and enable us to work towards it. Amen.

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## Matthew 7: 24-27

*Everyone who listens to these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.*

*The rain fell, the floods came and the winds blew and buffeted the house.*

*But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.*

*And everyone who listens to these words of Mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand.*

*The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house.*

*And it collapsed and was completely ruined.*

## Reflection

God in Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit,  
has laid down a common foundation for all the baptized Christians  
can therefore affirm their faith in Christ,  
the one foundation on which the Church of Christ is built.

Christians can confess together  
that the foundation on which their faith is built,  
is what God in Christ has done.

This conviction is the source of thankfulness and humility.

In their efforts to be rooted in the one foundation,  
many Christians have been and continue to be challenged by  
other voices that contradict and tend to reject Christ.

Christians in such situations are called to be like leaven in society,  
trusting that they will be supported by the grace of God.

Therefore in the face of testing,  
Christians must never waver.

Since Jesus was rejected,  
His followers too must be prepared to endure the same trials.

Christians are convinced that to build on Jesus Christ  
as the sure and common foundation  
implies the idea of working together from a common starting point  
towards a common goal, namely the unity of all the followers of Christ.  
The power of Christ's love fills us with great hope.

## Ephesians 4

*Do nothing to sadden the Holy Spirit  
with Whom you were sealed against the day of redemption.*

*Get rid of all bitterness, all passion and anger,  
harsh words, slander, and malice of every kind.*

*In place of these,  
be kind to one another, compassionate and mutually forgiving,  
just as God has forgiven you in Christ.*

*Be imitators of God as His dear children.  
Follow the way of love, even as Christ loved you.  
He gave Himself for us as an offering to God.*

Let us pray

Lord our God, through the work of the Holy Spirit You have established in Christ the one foundation on which Your Church is built. We thank You for what You have done for us in Christ. We thank You too for continually upholding Your Church in the midst of all attempts to destroy it. Help us by Your grace that we may build on the foundation You have laid down in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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Because I love you, O My people, I was born in Bethlehem.  
I am Emmanuel – God with you forever and ever.

I proclaimed the Good News of the Father,  
a reign of justice and mercy, of love and truth, peace and joy.

I brought you together, little flock as a hen gathers her chicks,  
as the shepherd gathers his sheep.

I died on the cross for the forgiveness of sins  
and to bring back the scattered children of the Father.

From My place beside the Father, I pour down upon you My Holy Spirit,  
the Breath of Life. He will remind you of all that I taught you.

Listen to Me, O My people, for I am with you everyday  
until the end of time so that you may be ONE with Me  
as I am ONE with My Father.

Listen to My voice, My people  
and follow Me so as there is but one flock and one shepherd.

### The Blessing of Aaron

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face shine upon us  
and be gracious to us.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon us  
and give us His peace

Amen.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle  
and all you holy Brothers,  
Help us to promote unity and understanding among all Christians.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!