

Prayer of intercession

Together with our sisters and brothers throughout Europe, today we are commemorating the centenary of the end of the First World War and praying to God to grant peace.

God, Your Word bestows peace and justice, consolation and compassion.

We come before You to remember the suffering and horror that the Great War, which ended 100 years ago, caused throughout Europe.

We remember the millions of women, children and men who were murdered, starved, maimed and driven out of their homes. We remember the culpability of our forefathers in believing that war could solve problems and enforce law.

Have mercy upon us.

We come before You to remember the consequences of the First World War, which forced people to flee and robbed them of their homeland, language, culture and history. We ask You to heal these memories, to reconcile the nations and people.

Have mercy upon us.

We bring before you our own history in Europe and our memories of the havoc wrought by wars. And we pray to You on behalf of all those who are currently fleeing from war and misery, hunger and suffering; those leaving their homeland in the hope of a peaceful life for them and their children. Open our hearts and hands for those who need our help right now.

Have mercy upon us.

We pray to You for our churches and congregations. To remind us of your Word of reconciliation. To enable us to take steps towards one another. To help us to listen. To teach us to respect others' history. To sow gratitude in our hearts for all that has brought us together in our churches.

Have mercy upon us.

God, we long for peace and justice, for consolation and compassion. Turn us into peacemakers. Lend us the strength and courage to instil Your message of peace and reconciliation in our societies. Help us to remain as one, as Your children in Europe and beyond.

Have mercy upon us.

God, You promised us a future. We want to remain in You and in Your Word, and to pray to you together with all Christianity on Earth in the words that Your Son, Jesus Christ, taught us:

Our Father ...