

Shalom Prayer

On the first Thursday of every month, the prayer for unity sent to the houses is aimed specifically for the Jewish people.

We do not put a cup or a paten on the altar. Instead we can place an open Bible.

Words of introduction which could be read before the prayer:

The Jewish people remain the living root of the Christian faith. We want to express this bond through our prayer today for the children of Israel.

Our call to pray for unity deepens when we bring before our merciful Father the separation between Jews and Christians. This was the first division in the people of God.

Embracing this intention sustains our journey towards unity.

Order of Service

Opening

Leader: God come to our aid.

All: Lord make haste to help us.

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

All: For ever and ever. Amen, Alleluia.

Followed by:

Zeh hayyom 'asah Adonai,

Nagilah wenismehah bo. (x2)

(Translation: This is the day which the Lord has made, a day for us to rejoice and be glad)

Hymn: standing

Psalm 129 (instead of Psalm 121)

Psalms: of the day

We should choose antiphons which are joyful and triumphant, or with a messianic character.

Biblical reading (the assembly sits)

Recommended reading: the beginning of Shema Israel (Dt 6: 4-9). If possible, the text can be read in Hebrew then in the vernacular language.

Shema ' Yisra 'el Adonai 'elohenu Adonai 'ehad

We 'ahabta, 'et Adonai 'eloheka bekal lebabeka

ubekal napsheka ubekal me 'odeka.

wehayu haddebarim ha 'eleh, 'aser 'anoki mesawweka hayyowm 'al-lebabeka.

wesinnantam lebaneka wedibbarta bam; besibteka bebeteka ubelekteka badderek, ubesakebeka ubequmeke.

uqesartam le 'owt 'al-yadeka wehayu letotapot ben 'eneka.

uketabtam 'al-mezuzot beteka ubis 'areka.

“Listen, Israel: Yahweh our God is the one, the only Yahweh.

You must love Yahweh your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let the words I enjoin on you today stay in your heart. You shall tell them to your children, and keep on telling them, when you are sitting at home, when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are standing up; you must fasten them on your hand as a sign and on your forehead as a headband; you must write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Other possibilities :

Old Testament:

- Gn 12: 1-4 (The call of Abram)
- Ex 3: 13-15 (I am he who is)
- Nb 6: 22-27 (Blessing)
- Dt 6: 4-9 (Shema Israel)
- Dt 26: 5-9 (Ancient creed)

New Testament:

- Mk 12: 28-34 (The first commandment)
- Hb 11: 8-12 (The faith of Abraham)
- Rm 9: 1-5 (The heritage of the Jewish people)

If preferable, it is always possible to read the gospel of the day or another text.

Meditation

The text is meant to help the assembly to enter more in the mystery of Israel, or to understand the importance of dialogue between Jewish and Christians.

If the liturgical time calls for a special response, it can be omitted.

Benedictus or Magnificat

Intercessions

R. Amen, amen, blessed be the God of Israel

Or another chorus.

1. Loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
you who mourned because of the violence between Cain and Abel,
 - we pray to you for peace in the Holy Land,
this land where you have chosen to come and join us in our humanity.
2. Loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
you who made possible the reconciliation between Joseph and his brothers,
 - for any contempt for your people Israel, forgive us
(silence).
 - we pray to you, Father, to make fraternity grow between the Jewish people and the nations.

3. Loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
you who brought Israel out of Egypt and made your people free,
 - give your joy to the Jewish people,
and keep them faithful to your covenant.

4. Loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
you who united the twelve tribes of Israel around the Torah,
 - give peace to the Jews who believe in Jesus.

5. Loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
you who sent your Son Jesus to save us,
 - pour out your blessing
on Christians who are of Jewish descent.

6. Loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
Father of Jesus Christ,
 - bring together in unity all Christian churches.

Prayer for the unity of Christians

The prayer for the unity of Christians is already included in intercession #6 so it is not necessary to say the usual prayer.

Our Father

Collect

Eternal and almighty God,
listen to the prayer of your Church.
You who chose Abraham and his descendants
to make them the children of your promise,
lead to the fulness of redemption
the first people of your Covenant.
May the nations of the earth
be welcomed by grace into the family of Abraham,
and may all creation joyfully come into your reign of peace.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Conclusion

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God (Alleluia)