

Office for prayer in connection with the Jewish people

Thursday, February 01, 2024

At the end of January, Jews celebrate Tu Bishvat

Tu Bichvat is more than just a celebration; it is a symbol of renewal and connection with nature. Mentioned in the Mishna, this festival represents one of the four New Years in the Jewish calendar, marking the "New Year of the Trees".

This celebration has evolved over time, acquiring a spiritual and ecological dimension in addition to its agricultural importance.

One of the prayers is for the trees: (excerpt from the Sidur)

"Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the world, who deprives the world of nothing, who has created excellent creatures and productive trees for the benefit of the sons of Adam.

May it please you, O Lord our God and God of our fathers, to bring us up in joy to our land, ... a land flowing with milk and honey, a land of streams, fountains and springs gushing out of valleys and mountains, a land of wheat and barley, of vines, figs and pomegranates, a land of olives for oil and honey."



Illustration by Sefira Lightstone

INTERCESSIONS

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

Or another refrain.

1. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who mourned the violence between Cain and Abel, we pray to you for peace in the Middle East, we pray to you for all the peoples who inhabit this land where you have chosen to join us in our humanity.
2. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who made reconciliation possible between Joseph and his brothers, forgive us for all our contempt for your people Israel. (As a sign of penitence, we remain silent for a few moments). We ask you, Father, to make brotherhood grow between the Jewish people and the nations.
3. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who brought Israel out of Egypt and set them free, give your joy to the Jewish people and keep them faithful to your Covenant.
4. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who united the twelve tribes of Israel around the Torah, gave peace to Jewish believers in Jesus.
5. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who sent your Son Jesus to save us, rest your blessing on Christians of Jewish origin.
6. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Father of Jesus Christ, you who gave your beloved Son so that all might be one, bring together in unity all the Christian Churches.

7. Most loving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, you who promised the Jewish people the coming of the Messiah, you who promised the Church the return of your son. We praise you and we say in the Holy Spirit: "Maranatha, come Lord".