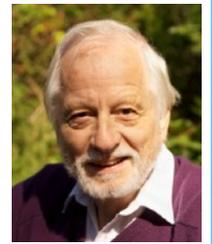


# Canopy of Prayer Special

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## Introduction to the "Prayer for Europe" for individual prayer and for groups

### Prayer

Europe urgently needs prayer. Everyone knows this. But most European Christians hardly practise it. You can pray alone. But you can also possibly reach out and encourage others to pray together. As an aid to this continental **Prayer for Europe**, today we offer a prayer in 6 sections with this "special". Each section has its own focus:

- Worship of God
- Thanks for receiving
- Ask for mercy
- Confession of sins
- Proclamation of the word
- Blessings as priestly worshippers

The next 6 editions will each pick up a theme in that order and encourage us to pray in this way for Europe.

Of course, one can also make all prayer the basis of a prayer meeting. Then the text would be prayed all together. It would be important then, that between the parts a suitable "bridge" is installed, such as: Praise songs after the 1st section; a spontaneous round of free thanksgiving after section 2; after section 4 possibly a penitential psalm; prepared words of proclamation over the continent after 5; in section 6, the participants can stand up and, with their arms raised as priests do, speak the Aaronic blessing over Europe.



1. **Worship God**, who holds the history of this world in His hands and, who will see its callings being fulfilled. He is the great "History maker!"
2. **Give thanks always** for all the good things that you and your parents were allowed to experience over the past decades in Europe: peace, prosperity, order, education, health service, social support, etc. Thank God, also, for the things of a greater dimension, i.e. for your neighbouring countries; the pleasant climate; the revivals in Europe, from its beginning onwards. God's good deeds have not just begun, they have stood witness of His great Name for generations!
3. Recognise God's love for Europe and receive anew this love through prayer. It is impossible to intercede without love. And it is completely impossible **to stand in the gap** for others without love. Imagine Jesus without love: He would never have stood in the gap for this world. He couldn't have.  
So let us pray for Christian awakening in all the countries of Europe. Acknowledge that God wants more than a functioning Church. He wants to spread out His royal dominion over all areas of our society: from EU-Institutions to the local establishments and beyond these, to individual businesses. "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." God wants to get very personal and become very concrete.
4. **Repentance is not negative**, but rather a homecoming into the arms of Father God (Lk. 15:11ff). Repentance is more than an emotion, it is the willingness to rethink and act differently (in NT Greek *metanoia*=to rethink).
  - 4.1. As Christians, our first change of direction refers to our failure to stand up mightily and firmly for Europe and its destiny. But that's what we are doing now.
  - 4.2. Secondly we confess before God the guilt of the condemnation and persecution of the Jews for centuries in Europe culminating in the Shoah of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
  - 4.3. Thirdly, we bow, in compassion, for the sins of the people and the EU-institutions. We bring the failures simply and humbly before the throne of grace and plead for healing and change (2. Chr. 7:14 ! "*If my people shall pray...*").
5. Let us loudly **proclaim the Kingship of God over Europe** by calling out the Name of JESUS. He is appointed by God as "Kyrios", as Lord of Lords in the visible world, as well as in the invisible world of cosmic powers and spiritual forces. HE says himself: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18). We proclaim and praise the Name that is above all names – the Name at which every knee must bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and must confess: JESUS is Lord – over Europe. (Phil. 2:9-11). Proclaim it day by day: "Europe shall be saved!"
6. **Blessing is God's heart's desire**. Therefore, when we bless the continent and its people, we are very close to God's heart. With our words we are pouring out thoughts of God's love. We are blessing Europe and speaking out good things over her, regardless of her sins, simply because the Father in heaven makes the sun of His grace rise over the wicked and the good (Matt. 5:45), over the believer and the unbeliever and because He also loved us while we were yet sinners. The core words of this blessing are found in Numbers 6:24-26: "The Lord bless thee, Europe, and keep thee..."

If we, as Christians, stand together in prayer in the countries of Europe, across all national and all denominational boundaries in unity, then we will see political and social changes. God awaits our prayers. And HE will act.

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## PRAYER FOR EUROPE

### **Father in Heaven,**

You are a great and holy God! You are worthy to be praised.

You hold this world and the destiny of the nations in your hands.

Through your love and creative Word you've called them into existence and you direct their paths.

In the same way, you also direct the nations of Europe and lead everything towards your goal. You will bring this world to completion, according to your wonderful plan.

We worship you, holy God, "For from you and through you and to you are all things. To you be honour and glory forever." (Rom 11:36).

### **Father in Heaven,**

We thank you for all the blessings you have given to our continent, to our peoples, our families and your church.

We thank you for our neighbouring countries.

We thank you for those who brought us the gospel and who taught us discipleship.

We thank you for all the revivals in Europe in the past.

We also thank you for giving us decades of peace after the Second World War so that we, living in the West, and after the fall of the Berlin Wall also those in the East, could live in *peace, freedom and prosperity*.

We thank you for our constitution and the democratic state under the rule of law in our countries, for science, culture and ministries of charity, and for the beauty of our nations and cities. For all of this we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for your Word says, "Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to him who orders his conduct aright, I will show the salvation of God." (Psalm 50:23).

### **Father in Heaven,**

Because you love the people of our continent, we ask your Holy Spirit to awaken anew the nations of Europe.

We ask you for a spiritual renewal of your church. Help her to become a home to many for we have heard your promise that you want to touch and transform millions.

We ask that you expand the Kingdom of God: over all European governments and over all the Institutions of the EU, over the economies and the financial world, and over all areas of society at national and European levels so that "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10).

### **Father in Heaven,**

We, as Christians, have failed to stand up for the peoples of Europe and the process of their growing together.

For decades we have neglected the politicians and have not taken any responsibility in prayer. Father, forgive us!

We confess before you God, the Holy One of Israel, the guilt of the contempt and persecution of the Jews for centuries in Europe culminating in the Shoah of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

We bow down before you on behalf of the sins of our representatives in the EU Institutions, who decided no longer to recognise your sovereignty and who did not want to allow the reference to God in the proposed Preamble of the European Constitution. We are very sorry for this.

We confess to you, as representatives of the peoples of Europe, the lack of godliness, exploitation of all kinds, sexual libertinism, millions of abortions, corruption, human trafficking and much xenophobia.

If you judge the peoples of Europe now because of their sins, when social riots, terrorist attacks, financial collapse, epidemics, and natural catastrophes arise, then you are absolutely right and we bow before you. These are the consequences of our misunderstood freedom, of our actions and our failures to act. But you always have our betterment at heart. But, Father, we cannot do it on our own. Therefore, pour out your Spirit upon us once again, that we may receive the new heart and the changed spirit that you have promised.

We ask forgiveness and healing for our peoples through the blood of your Son.

Father, we place ourselves under Your Word of exhortation and healing: "If my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). Do it, God, in Europe, yes, do it!

### **Father in Heaven,**

We call your kingship over Europe and praise the name of Jesus over our peoples.

We praise the power of the blood of Christ over all spiritual principalities against God, over all the spiritual strongholds that have stealthily penetrated our culture.

We proclaim Jesus as the Victor over faith in rationalism, over anti-Christian ideologies and religions, as well as the belief in old and new pagan cults. We also believe in the victory of Jesus over "faith" in money and faith in ourselves.

We also proclaim the victory of Jesus over the economy, the banks, and over the education system and all political decisions.

We praise the name of Jesus, the name above of all names. "Every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

(Phil 2:10-11).

### **Father in Heaven,**

Your will is to do good things for us for you are loving us. May Your salvation and Your healing, Your peace and Your blessing come upon us and our beloved continent of Europe.

As Your messengers, we now bless the countries and the people of Europe who have their homeland on this continent, and also all those who seek protection here with us.

So we proclaim, united as a people of priests, blessing from the throne of Grace

"The Lord bless you, Europe, and keep you.

Europe, the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His face upon you, beloved continent and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).