



A Call To Prayer

Behold the lamb of God, behold him who takest away the sins of the world. Lord I am not worthy that thou wouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

Today, my brothers and sisters in Christ, I petition you all who are members of the Body of Christ and wish to be members of the Body of Christ to pray for unity. The Church laments the sins of man, which cloud the way of truth and the path of righteousness. Many who proclaim Jesus have become corrupt with the vain inventions and philosophies of man, dividing every which way, defining themselves in how they are not in communion with others. But this, my brethren, is not what we were called to do. Our Lord Jesus Christ makes it very clear that we are to be one just as he and the Father are one, not by ignoring our differences, but by unity of mind and truth. What shall I say brethren, but that I am deeply saddened by the current state of our continual disunion. The Lord instituted Communion for the very purpose that, though we be scattered across the earth, though separated by many mountains and valleys, we would be gathered up and brought together in Christ Jesus. How can we go on living in sin? How can we not repent? How can we not forgive? Politics and historic feuds often divide us more than doctrine, but God said to forgive these things and be made one in him (Mt. 6:14-15, Jn. 17:21). How can you ever be in communion with your brother if you hate him and do not seek reconciliation? Further, if you do not see those who profess faith in the same Christ to be your brethren, then this is no excuse; as the Lord has said "Bless them that curse you" (Lk. 6:28) and "love thy neighbour as thyself" (Mk. 12:31). They are still your neighbor and must be treated as such. We must seek continually to be reconciled with our neighbors and brought into a full and true communion with one another. We must follow the will of Jesus to be one within his One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church which he instituted to the benefit of our souls and the benefit of others. How can a witness recall his testimony if his attention is divided, wanting to be louder than his neighbor's testimony so that people may be saved through him? By choosing to become disunited in doctrine, we create much confusion for those seeking Jesus. They have spent years hearing "Come, look at me, I have the Truth!" from many different people and religions. They come to Christ and he says to them, "Come to me, all you that labour, and are burdened, and I will refresh you" (Mt. 11:28); however, we complicate this by then shouting at him "I am of Cephas!" "I am of Apollos!" "I am of Thomas!" "I am of Paul!" "I am of Wesley!" "I am of Calvin!" "I am of Luther!" "I am of Cranmer!" (1 Co. 1:12). Why do we confuse them so, if not for our own confusion? It is for this reason and others that the following is clear: there is One

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Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God, and One Church (Eph. 4:4-5). Do you expect Christ to be divided (1 Co. 1:10-13)? Has he not done enough for you already? Of course, we know that Christ is not divided and never will be; but we are complacent in attempting to split him among ourselves. It is as though we are dividing his garments at the foot of the cross, fighting over who should have what, all while missing what the Lord, himself, has said regarding this (Jn. 17:21). Now, many of you may now be asking how it is possible to come together after being parted for so long from each other. The answer is through prayer and fasting, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and throwing away our pride and earthly "wisdom" which only makes us out to be fools. We must all become of one mind in seeking the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic faith, we must cast aside all past divisions through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in order that we may truly be one as our Lord and the Father are One.

God will not abandon those who seek him earnestly in faith, he has said that he gives Wisdom freely to all who ask, so we must ask abundantly (Jm. 1:5). It is our responsibility as those who seek to follow Christ to drop our assumptions and call out to God for guidance. He sent us the Helper for this very purpose. There is no reason that we must stay divided, we have no excuse. Jesus has prayed that we tear down the barriers which separate us. God could do this and has promised to lead us, if only we stop relying on our own wisdom and ask him to bring us together for his Glory to spread the Gospel, an undivided message which need not have dissent in those who seek to spread it in all joy (Jn. 14:26, 1 Co. 2:13-15). Those who do not truly seek to know God will not seek him, blinded by their own self-righteousness (which is no righteousness at all), and there will be great division among them as they stay set in their ways. Further, there will be those who seek false unity and, trusting in their own wisdom, put aside and ignore potential differences for the sake of communion. While the intent is noble, this rushed methodology has the potential to lead the church astray through the assumption of false doctrines into the realm of acceptability unless precautions are taken by the ministers God has appointed to lead his Church (through them continually seeking prayerful discernment during the process, with an openness to the True faith passed down to us by God through the Apostles), though it may still be dangerous. Further, it is important to test the spirits and ensure that they are from God and scrutinize anything which gives you a Gospel which is contrary to the one we have received. Some among us are certainly nearer to the Truth than others, but we must all seek guidance on how to bring all people who profess faith in Jesus, and love for our Lord, to the fullness of the Truth; that we may be one people, one Church, under one Christ. Towards this end, let us pray and fast for the sake of reunification, that we may glorify God in his church and that he may graft us onto his vine of life. Further, while we should seek to accomplish this goal through conventional means by praying for individual wisdom, we should also pray for union in a way that pertains to all people who are members of the Body of Christ and wish to be members of the Body of Christ without a specified means. God will do what he wills regarding this, and we should not limit him to work through conventional debate. Jesus has said that faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains (Mt. 17:19-20) and that the prayers of a righteous man availeth much (Jm. 5:16), how much more of an effect will be had when all those who proclaim Christ's name pray for this union?

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts, minds, and souls forever. Amen.