

## **Week of prayer for Christian unity 2005**

### **Additional Prayers from Slovakia**

#### **St Cyril's prayer when he was nearing death**

O Lord, my God, who has created the angelic choirs and all the heavenly powers, who brought all things from non-being to being and who always hears the prayers of those who do your holy will and who, in your fear, keep your commandments.

Hear therefore, O Lord, my humble prayer, preserve the faithful flock you have entrusted to me, a humble and unworthy servant. Deliver them from the godless and heathen malice of those who blaspheme against you, destroy the heresy of the three languages, expand your church and keep it firmly united.

Unite your people in the profession of their faith and inflame their hearts with the truth of your word. You have bestowed upon us a great favour by calling us to preach the gospel of your Christ, and your people are ready to fulfil your good works.

Those whom you gave into my care I return to you - guide them with your strong right hand and protect them, that all may praise and glorify your holy name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

*Saint Cyril, born in Macedonia and of Greek and Slav descent, translated the scriptures into Slavonic, the language of the people. The 'three languages' petition refers to the heresy that only Hebrew, Greek and Latin can be used as liturgical languages.*

#### **Christmas prayer**

Heavenly Father, fountain of all goodness,

We thank you that you have graciously led us to remember

The glorious day of birth of your Son and that you give us the chance to see him

Through the eyes of our faith.

What great joy! Born for all, rich and poor, he brings us all good gifts.

He became the Son of man, that we may become sons and daughters of God.

Eternal God, may the heavens praise you and may we be granted peace on earth.

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, how can we thank you for your infinite love?

Receive the thankful praise of our hearts!

Enlighten us with your Holy Spirit,

That we may not fail to remember that it is the grace of God that brings salvation

And helps all men and women to reject ungodliness and worldly passions.

In so doing we are transformed to live decent and godly lives. Amen.

*Juraj Tranovský (1592-1637), Lutheran pastor in Liptovský Mikuláš, composer of many hymns*

*and publisher of Cithara Sanctorum (Lutheran hymnbook used until 1991 in the Lutheran Church in Slovakia)*

#### **Morning hymn**

Dear Father, God, we rise to say:  
Your name be praised for this new day.  
For health and strength our prayers lift,  
Grant every good and perfect gift.

O God the Son, we pray of you,  
may all we plan and say and do,  
be ever welcome in your sight,  
be done to your and our delight.

O Spirit, God, preserve from fear  
all those who fret and sorrow here,  
and when the day of days arrives,  
with fadeless glory, crown our lives.

*Jiří Zábajník (1608 – 1672), Lutheran pastor (translated by J. Vajda 1969)*

**O, Lord, Jesus Christ, dear Shepherd,**

Giver of salvation, joy and strength,  
Look down on us in your love, look down on us your flock, and protect us.  
Wolves surround us seeking to destroy your love, day and night.  
They are many and without your help we are powerless.  
As they come closer to us, your sheep stand helpless.  
Intercede for us, O Prince of peace.  
You died for our sins, we await your help,  
Because we know that you will surely save us.

For yours is the glory and honour for eternity,  
O good shepherd, great God,  
Who will keep us close and finally,  
Lead us to our Father in heaven. Amen.

*By Kristina Royova (1860-1936), in Piesne Sionske (Hymns from Zion),  
novelist and hymn writer, key personality in Slovak spiritual revival movement*

**Prayers in the Catholic tradition:**

*Anima Christi - Soul of Christ*

*Litany of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*