

«Prayer on Thursday»

God, our Father and Mother,
we are all aware of the situation in our church. Acts of injustice occurred and continue to occur. Power was and is abused. "However, among you, it should not be so" said Jesus.

We ask you for your mercy

- Kyrie eleison.

By means of our baptism, women and men are equally valuable members of the church. If they work together in all duties and offices, they can contribute to a church that moves forward renewed into the future.

We ask you for strength and confidence.

- Kyrie eleison.

People come to God and to one another with their desire for peace, community and relationship. A credible church is open to all people regardless of their background, nationality or sexual orientation. This church is present for people whose life decisions appear to be misguided and it welcomes them with their bumps and bruises. It does not assess or judge but, instead, trusts that the power of the spirit is at work even when, according to our own human understanding, this seem improbable.

We ask you for strength and confidence.

- Kyrie eleison.

Looking forward with confidence requires a great deal of trust, especially in these times in which we are lamed by fear and narrowness and in which the future seems grim. Trust is also required if we are going to take new paths and make decisive changes that can bring about more good than would be possible by simply maintaining the status quo.

We ask you for strength and confidence.

- Kyrie eleison.

God, our Father and Mother,
Trusting that you are with us on the way, we continue on with and in the church, following in the tradition of all the women and men who went before us who were enlivened by and acting in the fire of the spirit's power; women and men who believed and lived before and for us. St. Scholastica trusted in the power of prayer. We want to go forward step by step in the same way as she did: "Go forward as you can, sisters and brothers!" Watch over us. Be with us always until the end of the world. For this we pray, now and forever. Amen.

Information

“Prayer on Thursday”

“We are all aware of the situation in our church. Acts of injustice occurred and continue to occur. Power was and is abused. ‘However, among you, it should not be so’ said Jesus.” (From Prayer on Thursday). An initial group headed up by Prioress Irene Gassmann, in Fahr Monastery, invites all people who pray regularly to pray each Thursday for change in the church and for people to find new courage as they make their own way forward in and with the church. The „Prayer on Thursday“ was written with this in mind.

The idea was sparked by something that Felix Gmür, Bishop of Basel, said at the book launch for *A long way" a Project "For a Church with * Women*, in which he pointed out the importance of contemplation. "What he said triggered something in me," says Prioress Irene Gassmann. There are many ways of action, but contemplation and regular prayer for change are equally important. Using her own network as a starting point, Irene Gassmann is inviting the German-speaking Benedictine communities as well as others around the globe to include the "Prayer on Thursday" in the appropriate Compline each week.

Parishes, Bible studies and Christian communities that already say Thursday prayers, are encouraged to incorporate the "Prayer on Thursday" into their prayers. The initiators are convinced of the efficacy of praying it alone as well. It is important to them that the “Prayer on Thursday” is not driven solely by their single monastery or by the German-speaking communities of Switzerland, but that a global prayer network grows and slowly begins to spread its power. The hope is that this prayer will give those who regularly pray on Thursdays the courage and the confidence to move forward one more week in and with the Church - step by step and in union with all the women and men who pray it. Change takes time and is dependent on the foundation and the spiritual sources which, in the church, is regular prayer”, says Prioress Irene Gassmann.

The prayer can be downloaded from the website www.gebet-am-donnerstag.ch. The website will also include a list of the places where the „Prayer on Thursday“ is prayed publicly.

The invitation to the “Prayer on Thursday” will be published on Sonntag, the 10th of February 2019, which is the feast day of St. Scholastica, the sister of Benedict of Nursia. Tradition has it that Scholastica prayed for her brother to remain longer with her in conversation and prayer. According to the legend, God sent a storm and Scholastica said to Benedict: „ Go brother, if you can.” With this episode in mind, the „Prayer on Thursday“ concludes with the words: “We want to go forward step by step in the same way as she did: “Go forward as you can, sisters and brothers!”

Box

The first „Prayer on Thursday“ will be on February 14th, 2019 at 7.30pm in Fahr monastery during Compline. For more information contact: Prioress Irene Gassmann, info@gebet-am-donnerstag.ch.

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