

# Canopy of Prayer

March #105-2021

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EUoP



## Dear Prayer Partners in Europe

This canopy reaches you a week before Good Friday, in that special week in which we consciously reflect on the great work of Jesus Christ on the cross. No other sacrament or institution brings us closer to the great Atonement than the sacrament of communion. The sacrifice of Jesus applies not only to every individual or to the church as a whole, but it marked a turning point in the spiritual realm and the entire universe, and therefore also for our continent of Europe.

**1 Cor.11:23** For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## Communion: remembrance, proclamation, expectation

In the description of the communion as written by Paul to the Corinthians, we see a remembrance of the past, a proclamation for the present, and an expectation for the future.

On the basis of these three aspects, we will look at how we can pray for Europe.

1. "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



Over the past 2,000 years, this good news has been proclaimed in almost every corner of Europe. The Gospel of Jesus Christ transformed a pagan part of the earth into a Christian continent, known as Europe, even though there was no natural eastern border with Asia. Universities were founded, with the science of Theology as the foundation for every other science. So we may say that Europe started to develop as a continent disciplined in the Name of Jesus

Christ. The Cultural Commission (Gen. 1:28) and the Great Commission (Math. 28:18 - 20) worked hand in hand. And despite many dark times, the progress of the gospel on a small or larger scale showed time and again that the Light of God was stronger than darkness in Europe. The gospel went from Jerusalem to Europe and from there to many parts of the world. **A great reason for gratitude, so let us give thanks for this.**

2. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death...

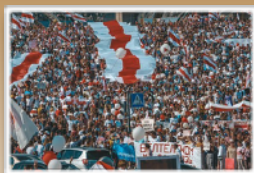
At the same time, we realise that less and less people take communion, nor proclaim the death of our Lord. The fear of the Lord has mostly disappeared. Knowledge about God is no longer the foundation for what we do, on the contrary, Europe has become known as the continent that exports unbelief to the world. But the sacrifice of Jesus speaks as strongly as it did 2,000 years ago. We thought and think that we can do 'life' without God, without the need for reconciliation through the blood of Christ with the Father. Our continent is in danger if we don't acknowledge how wretched we are, how much we need the Lord. Let us take time to search our hearts and with the help of the Spirit come to a real **time of repentance.**

3. ...until He comes.

Looking at Europe today we can easily lose hope. But keeping our focus on God gives us His perspective: shortly after one of the darkest times in Europe the state of Israel was born in one day. The existence of Israel is the clearest sign that God continues with His plan. We are on our way to a wedding, when Jesus, the Lamb, will eat again with us. Until that time let us **cry out to God**, that many more people from our continent will come to Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that the church of Europe will be known as a bride that is passionate for her Bridegroom.

### Belarus Update:

Opposition leader Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, in exile in Lithuania, wants the demonstrations to start again, now that winter is ending in Belarus. Some Christians are standing up against the brutality and injustice and their churches have been closed. Others believe the government's propaganda that the West is decadent and they prefer to stick with what they see as the Christian values of Belarus. Let's pray for our Belarussian brothers and sisters.



### Additional Prayer points:-

1. Netherlands: After the election of 17th of March a new government needs to be established.
2. UK: May the connection between the continent and the British Isles be one of blessing and continued relationship in the Lord.

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