

# Europe needs our prayer!

## Week 2: Thanksgiving



for our movements and communities in Europe – Europe needs our prayer!

### Thanksgiving

The psalmist tells of desert, anxiety, darkness, fear, storm and wasteland, yet all this leads to a great prayer of thanksgiving: thanksgiving for the goodness of God in all this; in the middle of the emergency: thanksgiving. "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story – those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south." (Ps 107).

This thanksgiving breathes the knowledge that God's gifts and callings never leave Him, and it breathes the hope that the once pronounced promise "Behold, it is very good!" endures – through all the debris, through all darkness. The last word is always the Word of Life - and for this miracle the Psalmist gives thanks.

This thanksgiving, which is for salvation out of need and darkness, also applies to the miracle of "Europe": the unity which has grown out of adversity and is able to overcome it; the vision of being together in balance and on an equal footing; the power of candles and prayers that peacefully opened the door to freedom in 1989 – Europe is a miracle born out of the depths of desolation and fears.

Europe is worth giving thanks for. Whoever gives thanks, believes that God will write straight on crooked lines, will not break the bruised reed and not extinguish the smoldering wick. Whoever gives thanks thinks highly of God who holds heaven and earth in His hands and who has worked so many wonders in Europe. And whoever gives thanks, marvels at the ability of God, in the midst of destruction and death, to pave ways to life.

We are invited this week to trust God, to marvel at His wonders, to think highly of Him, and to give thanks for the miracles He is doing in and with Europe.

Sr. Nicole Grochowina (Fraternity of Christ, Selbitz)

### Ukraine

Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe. Hypothetically it is the center of Europe, with more than a thousand years of history and traditions. It also has beautiful nature with mountains in the West and sea in the South. There are fertile soils (40% of the world's total resources!) and unique natural resources. Our country is a great exporter of crude sunflower-seed or safflower oil, corn, wheat, iron and steel. For centuries Ukraine stood on a crossroads of trade routes. That is why for a long time neighboring countries desired to take control of the country.

The IT-industry is steadily increasing by now. So, all in all, this country has quite a good environment to do business, but precarious political and economic conditions undermine businesses.

This country has a lot to offer for the good of humanity. But the current situation is nullifying all positive aspects; Ukraine is facing a crisis now, suffering from military aggression from Russia. It also suffers from human rights violation and frustration, so a lot of intelligent people have to leave the Ukraine to earn a decent living. We desperately need unity and trust.

But: A new generation is coming. There are a lot of devoted, progressive Christians in Ukraine, who are ready to follow Jesus and to die for Him, those who are ready to bring a positive change in the world, those who lead not earthly, but a spiritual war.

### Prayer

- Let us pray for peace in Ukraine;
- for families who have lost their fathers, sons, or brothers in the war;
- for release of the war captives;
- for refugees and people who suffer from military actions in the East of Ukraine;
- for unity in our country and our churches;
- May our Good Father turn all these hardships and challenges into opportunities.

Ulja Sheremeta, Orest Hryhorchak (Ukraine)