

Prayer for the Feast of St. Ursula 2024



Reflective Music as the Group Gathers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2hHaWvjhxo>

Opening Song

Companions on the Journey

(Carey Landry)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm7K9siabag>

**We are companions on the journey,
breaking bread and sharing life;
and in the love we bear is the hope we share,
for we believe in the love of our God,
we believe in the love of our God.**

No longer strangers to each other;
no longer strangers in God's house,
we are fed and we are nourished
by the strength of those who care,
by the strength of those who care.

We have been gifted with each other,
and we are called by the Word of the Lord:
to act with justice, to love tenderly, and
to walk humbly with our God,
to walk humbly with our God.

"She Lives"

(A Poem by Irene Mahoney, OSU)

She lives for us
Not in flesh and blood,
But in the power of her legend.
Her feast remains a feast of color—
Of bright blue skies and tumultuous leaves.
There is an aura about it—
Something gold and glorious,
Distant from us, yet endowed with that mysterious
Vitality which legends, deep with experience
Of the past, provide.
She lives in memory and aspiration.
She lives for those who honor virginity
And for those who recognize that "martyr" is only
Another word for "witness"—
A vocation to which we,
All of us, are called.



[Brief Pause]

Psalm Response: Psalm 33

(Adapted from *Psalms for Praying* by Nan Merrill)

(Read by individual readers OR by alternating sides)

Antiphon: (ALL) Let your love be upon us, O God, as we place all our hope in you.

Reader 1: I will bless the Beloved at all times; a song of praise I will sing.
When I searched for love, the Beloved answered within my heart.

Reader 2: The Beloved sends angels to those who call on Love.
O taste and see; the Beloved is within you.

Reader 1: Happy are all who dwell in the Beloved's heart; for those who give themselves to the Beloved
lack no good thing.

Reader 2: Keep your heart open and free. Make time to dwell in silence.
Become a peaceful presence in the world.

Reader 1: The Beloved sees the deeds of our hearts and is kind and merciful,
ever waiting for us to embrace Love's way.

Reader 2: The Beloved weeps with compassion and is ever ready to lighten heavy hearts and ease their
burdens. The Beloved renews the life all who surrender to Love.

Quiet reflection, followed by the sharing of a word or phrase from the poem or psalm

Intercessions

Response: O God, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those in our world who suffer oppression and persecution, that they may experience
God's strength through the support of their sisters and brothers, we pray...

For those who hold positions of authority in the Church and in society, that they may exercise leadership
in a way that liberates and empowers others, we pray...

For the United States, and other countries preparing for elections, that all will make decisions
for the common good, we pray...

On this feast of St Ursula, we pray that Ursulines, their colleagues and associates throughout the world,
become ever more faithful to the vision of Angela, we pray...

Let us pray through the intercession of all the Ursulines who have gone before us, for the grace
to support those who are forging new paths in religious life, we pray...

Let us pray for all gathered in prayer today, that we may continue to live the spirit of Ursula and Angela
in our world today, we pray...

Other prayers and intercessions...

Closing Prayer

(Recited by All)

O God of our hope, on this feast of St. Ursula, we pray for a strengthening in each of us of the spirit of our vocation – deep personal love of Jesus Christ and a life of prayer and action that will draw people from all segments of society to a deeper love of God and one another. Through the intercession of St. Ursula and her Companions may we have the courage and joy to live our lives with fidelity and commitment. Amen.

Closing Song

Insieme

(Julia Vigue)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9Y2bcwnodM>

I, I am one, I rise and shine like the sun.
I seize the day, I lend a hand, I shine my light wherever I can.
Just one flame casts out the darkness. I am one.
When the sun lays down its head on this side of the world,
it's night instead, and the moon becomes a beacon with the stars.
Altogether the galaxy is moving time for you and me,
We work as one and we become life together.

Insieme, insieme, together.
We're moving the world, we're making this day what it will be forever.
My voice is one, loving and strong, but with you I become a song.
Insieme, insieme, together.

Peace begins inside of me and in my home and on my street and in my community and in yours.
Then peace can move across the land, across the ocean, yes it can.
With the waves we're hand in hand, insieme.
We are a joyful chorus, we are a mighty team,
Step by step, day by day, we're changing time.
This is not a dream anymore, this is peace at our front door.
Beginning now with you and me, insieme.

Insieme...

I move alone, one step, one chance, but with you I become a dance.
Insieme, insieme, together.