

Prayer for the Feast of St. Ursula

October 21, 2026



Call into Prayer and Celebration

“When Angela Merici initiated ‘the newly begun life of virgins who are called by the name Company of Saint Ursula’ (*Rule*, Prologue) under the protection of this fabled heroine-saint, it was the Ursula of legend, not of history, that she knew. She left no explanation of her choice. Yet we recognize in Ursula’s story themes that resonate with Angela’s own words and deeds...The mythic Ursula embodies the values and spirit that are Angela’s bequest...down the centuries...

Ursula and her companions model a new truth, forge a new way, within the Church. Ursula was a natural leader, who evoked faith and encouraged her companions to greatness. She stood among them, not above them. Her authority flowed from her holiness and zeal. Ursula had shared her spirit with her companions. Following her example, they too had committed themselves to Christ...Their loyalty to Christ, their faith and courage: that was how Angela sought to live, in the midst of her world. These heroines could show the way.”

(Excerpts from *Angela Merici’s Journey of the Heart* by Mary-Cabrini Durkin)

Song Reflection: Into the Deep

(Monica Brown)

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



Stirring in our hearts, in the depths of our souls,
we now hear a call, to launch into the deep,
to move beyond our fear, beyond all we have known,
to believe with a faith that dares to trust,
our God will meet us there.

***Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of faith, come see what trust can bring.
Into the deep, come launch out with Me,
Into the depths of love, come fix your gaze on Me, Into the deep.***

More than we could know, far more than we could hope,
a promise of great things, in hearts that dare to dream,
such bright imaginings and possibilities,
that our God will bestow abundantly,
on all who heed God’s call.

We will find in God, the courage that we need,
to embrace the call, to risk familiar ways,
if we but look to God, and let love be our guide,
we will know in our hearts such unity,
God’s blessing upon us.

Quiet Reflection followed by Sharing:

What in the story of Ursula and her Companions most resonates and draws me?

What in their story speaks to our time and our world?

Concluding Prayer: A Psalm of Shared Mission and Ministry

(Miriam Therese Winter, adapted from *WomanWord*,
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We praise you, [O God],
and we worship you
with songs that sing of relationship,
with symbols that speak our experience,
with sacraments that celebrate life.

We thank you, [O God],
for so many things:
Your promise when we are discouraged,
Your presence when we are lonely,
Your protection when we are attacked.

For you call us and lead us in mission
and strengthen us for our ministry
through the nurturing bonds of community
and the sustaining support of friends.

We are sisters and brothers in your service,
missionaries in your service,
wide open to all in need.

We thank you, [O God],
and we praise you,
for the challenges and the choices,
for all those who stand beside us,
for all who are there behind us,
for all who have gone before us
to preach and prepare the way.

We thank you, [O God],
and we praise you,
rejoicing in all
that we see and hear
of you and your challenging word;
may we be of one mind in our mission,
work side by side in ministry,
walk hand in hand
through our ups and downs
until you come again.

We thank you, [O God], and we praise you!
We praise you, [O God], and we thank you!
Shower your blessings upon us
and on all who are touched by our lives. Amen.