

**ECUMENICAL PRAYER FOR THE COMMEMORATION  
OF THE 1700<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE FIRST COUNCIL OF NICAEA**

near the archaeological excavations of  
the ancient Basilica of Saint Neophytos - İznik  
28 November 2025

*His Holiness Leo XIV, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the Heads of Churches and the Presidents or Secretaries of the World Christian Communions and International Ecumenical Organizations (or their Representatives) go to the stage near the remains of the Imperial Palace, where they lay a candle close to the icons and then go to their assigned place.*

*During the entrance procession, songs from the Orthodox and Catholic choirs alternate.*

*Orthodox choir*

Φῶς ἱλαρὸν ἀγίας δόξης, ἀθανάτου Πατρός, οὐρανίου, ἁγίου, μάκαρος,  
Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ, ἐλθόντες ἐπὶ τὴν ἡλίου δύσιν, ἰδόντες φῶς ἔσπερινόν,  
ὑμνοῦμεν Πατέρα, Υἱόν, καὶ ἅγιον Πνεῦμα Θεόν. Ἄξιόν σε ἐν πᾶσι καιροῖς,  
ὑμνεῖσθαι φωναῖς αἰσίαις, Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ζωὴν ὁ διδούς, Διὸ ὁ κόσμος σὲ δοξάζει.

*O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the Immortal Father, Heavenly, Holy, Blessed Jesus Christ: Having come to the setting of the sun, and beheld the light of evening, we praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – God. It is worthy to praise You at all times with reverent voices, O Son of God, Giver of life; therefore, the whole world glorifies You.*

*Catholic Choir*

*Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum.*

*Sing praises, all you peoples, Sing praises to the Lord.*

**WELCOME ADDRESS OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW**

## INTRODUCTION

### *His Holiness Leo XIV*

Blessed be God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
merciful and abounding in love:  
source of forgiveness, communion and peace.  
Now and for ever, world without end.

### *His Beatitude Theodoros II*

Ὁ Θεὸς ὁ μέγας καὶ ὑψιστος, ὁ μόνος ἔχων ἀθανασίαν, φῶς οἰκῶν ἀπρόσιτον, ὁ πᾶσαν τὴν κτίσιν ἐν σοφίᾳ δημιουργήσας. Ὁ διαχωρήσας ἀνὰ μέσον τοῦ φωτός, καὶ ἀνὰ μέσον τοῦ σκότους, καὶ τὸν μὲν ἥλιον θέμενος εἰς ἐξουσίαν τῆς ἡμέρας, σελήνην δὲ καὶ ἀστέρας εἰς ἐξουσίαν τῆς νυκτός· ὁ καταξιώσας ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἁμαρτωλοὺς καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς παρουσίας ὥρας προφθάσαι τὸ πρόσωπόν σου ἐν ἐξομολογήσει, καὶ τὴν ἐσπερινήν σοι δοξολογίαν προσαγαγεῖν· αὐτός, φιλάνθρωπε Κύριε, κατεύθυνον τὴν προσευχὴν ἡμῶν ὡς θυμίαμα ἐνώπιόν σου καὶ πρόσδεξαι αὐτὴν εἰς ὄσμην εὐωδίας.

*O God, great and exalted, You alone are immortal, dwelling in unapproachable light. In wisdom You created all things. You divided the light from the darkness, appointing the sun to rule the day, the moon and the stars to govern the night. You have made us sinners worthy, at this very hour, to stand before You in confession and to offer You our evening praise. O Lord, Lover of humankind, direct our prayer as incense before You, and accept it as a fragrant offering.*

### *His Beatitude John X*

يَا مَنْ فِي كُلِّ وَقْتٍ وَفِي كُلِّ سَاعَةٍ، فِي السَّمَاءِ وَعَلَى الْأَرْضِ، مَسْجُودٌ لَهُ وَمَمَجَّدٌ، الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ الطَّوِيلُ الْأَنَاءِ وَالْجَنَزِيلُ الرَّحْمَةُ، الَّذِي يُحِبُّ الصَّادِقِينَ وَيَرْحَمُ الْخَطَاةَ، الدَّاعِي الْكُلَّ إِلَى الْخِلَاصِ بِمَوْعِدِ الْخَيْرَاتِ الْمُنْتَظَرَةِ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا فِي هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ طَلِبَاتِنَا وَسَهِّلْ حَيَاتِنَا إِلَى الْعَمَلِ بِوَصَايَاكَ

*You who at all times and in every hour, in heaven and on earth, are worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God; who are long-suffering, all-merciful, and most compassionate; who love the righteous and have mercy on sinners; who call all to salvation through the promise of good things to come – do You, the same Lord, receive also our supplications at this hour, and direct our lives according to Your commandments.*

### *His Beatitude Theophilos III*

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who is everywhere and fills all things; Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life – come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

*His Holiness Ignatius Aphrem II*

Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
He created man and woman in his image and likeness;  
after the fall, in mercy and kindness,  
he placed a mark of protection upon Cain,  
and set in the sky the rainbow as a perennial sign,  
a covenant between himself and every living creature on the earth.

*His Beatitude Sahak II*

Blessed be Jesus Christ, our Lord, he Only-Begotten of the Father,  
announced by the prophets as Prince of Peace, born of a woman in Bethlehem  
of Judea:  
by his blood he reconciled Abel and Cain, he knocked down the dividing wall  
and he made the two peoples one;  
risen from the dead, as his first gift to his disciples, he gave peace.

*His Holiness Mar Baselios Marthoma Mathews III*

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
the Consoler and source of communion:  
in the radiant sign of a dove he consecrated the Lord Jesus in the Jordan River  
to proclaim to peoples far and near a year of grace and reconciliation;  
on Pentecost, as blazing fire, he redeemed Babel and amid the diversity of  
languages, he bestowed the one truth, which is the source of life.

**GOSPEL**  
(JN 17:20-23)

*The Reverend Jerry Pillay*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said:  
“[Father,] I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in  
Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and  
I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You  
sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may  
be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made  
perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have  
loved them as You have loved Me.

**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS LEO XIV**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

### *His All-Holiness Bartholomew*

In remembrance of what was proclaimed by the Fathers of the Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, let us profess our faith:

### *All together*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father.  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us all, and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
and was incarnate  
of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
On the third day  
he rose from the dead  
in accordance with the scriptures.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.  
Who, with the Father and the Son,  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one, holy,

catholic and apostolic Church.

We confess one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the age to come. Amen.

*Orthodox Choir*

Ὁ μονογενῆς Υἱὸς καὶ Λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἀθάνατος ὑπάρχων καὶ καταδεξάμενος διὰ τὴν ἡμετέραν σωτηρίαν, σαρκωθῆναι ἐκ τῆς ἁγίας Θεοτόκου καὶ ἀειπαρθένου Μαρίας, ἀτρέπτως ἐνανθρωπήσας σταυρωθεὶς τε, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, εἰς ὧν τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος, συνδοξαζόμενος τῷ Πατρὶ καὶ τῷ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, σῶσον ἡμᾶς.

*Only-begotten Son and Word of God, being immortal, You accepted, for our salvation, to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and without change became human. You were crucified, O Christ our God, and by death You trampled down death. Being one of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit – save us.*

## INVOCATIONS

*The Right Reverend Anthony Poggo*

To the eternal Son of God, who came among us to free and renew us, we profess our thankful fidelity.

*His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis*

Jesus, who walked among us, doing good and bringing salvation, Kyrie eleison.

*R: Kyrie eleison.*

*The Right Reverend Dirk Jan Schoon*

Jesus, servant of God and Author of life, Kyrie eleison.

*R: Kyrie eleison.*

*His Excellency Gomidas Ohanian*

Jesus, whom human hands put to death, but God raised from the sorrow of the grave, Kyrie eleison.

*R: Kyrie eleison.*

*The Reverend César García*

Jesus, Crucified and Risen, whom the Father has made Lord and Messiah, Kyrie eleison.

*R: Kyrie eleison.*

*The Reverend Dirk Lange*

Jesus, you who are the One Lord and who give us one faith and one baptism, Kyrie eleison.

*R: Kyrie eleison.*

*Professor Valerie Duval Pujol*

Jesus, Head and Savior, who reign at the right hand of God, Kyrie eleison.

*R: Kyrie eleison.*

*The Reverend Botrus Mansour*

Jesus, Lord of all, who have brought us peace, Kyrie eleison.

*R: Kyrie eleison.*

## OUR FATHER

*The Reverend Philip Vinod Peacock*

The Lord has given us his Spirit. With the confidence and freedom of his children, let us pray together, each in our own language.

*Then all shall recite the Lord's Prayer in their own language.*

## FINAL BLESSING

(Nm 6:24-26)

*His Excellency Anba Barnaba El Soryany*

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

*R: Amen*

*The Reverend Opoku Onyinah*

May the Lord let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy.

*R: Amen*

*The Reverend Reynaldo Ferreira Leão-Néto*

May the Lord turn his countenance towards you and give you his peace.

*R: Amen*

*All the Leaders together:*

May the mercy of God,  
slow to anger and abounding in love,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be for us all,  
for those whom he loves,  
for the holy Church,  
blessing and peace,  
now and for all the length of our days.

*R: Amen*



### *Orthodox choir*

Τῶν ἁγίων Πατέρων ὁ χορός, ἐκ τῶν τῆς οἰκουμένης περάτων συνδραμών, Πατρός, καὶ Υἱοῦ, καὶ Πνεύματος ἁγίου, μίαν οὐσίαν ἐδογματίσε καὶ φύσιν, καὶ τὸ μυστήριον τῆς θεολογίας, τρανῶς παρέδωκε τῇ Ἐκκλησίᾳ· οὓς εὐφημοῦντες ἐν πίστει, μακαρίσωμεν λέγοντες· ὦ θεία παρεμβολή, θεηγόροι ὀπλίται, παρατάξεως Κυρίου, ἀστέρες πολύφωτοι, τοῦ νοητοῦ στερεώματος, τῆς μυστικῆς Σιών οἱ ἀκαθαίρετοι πύργοι, τὰ μυρίπνοα ἄνθη τοῦ Παραδείσου, τὰ πάγχρυσά στόματα τοῦ Λόγου, Νικαίας τὸ καύχημα, οἰκουμένης ἀγλαΐσμα, ἐκτενῶς πρεσβεύσατε, ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν.

*The choir of the holy Fathers, having gathered from the ends of the inhabited world, defined one essence and one nature of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and clearly delivered to the Church the mystery of theology. As we praise them in faith, let us call them blessed, saying: O divine encampment, God-inspired warriors of the Lord's array, radiant stars of the noetic firmament, unshaken towers of mystical Zion, fragrant blossoms of Paradise, all-golden mouths of the Word, the boast of Nicaea and the adornment of the world – earnestly intercede for our souls.*

### *Catholic choir*

Ubi charitas et amor, ubi charitas, Deus ibi est.

*Where charity and love, where there is love, God is there.*