

# An invitation to pray during the EASTER SEASON with Pope Leo XIV



Let us (...) run like Mary Madgalene, announcing him to everyone, living out the joy of the resurrection, so that wherever the specter of death still lingers, the light of life may shine.

Easter Sunday, 5 April 2026

# WALK WITH US

**this is the peace of the risen Christ – a peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. It comes from God who loves us all unconditionally. (...) to overcome the darkness, it is necessary to see the light and believe in it.**

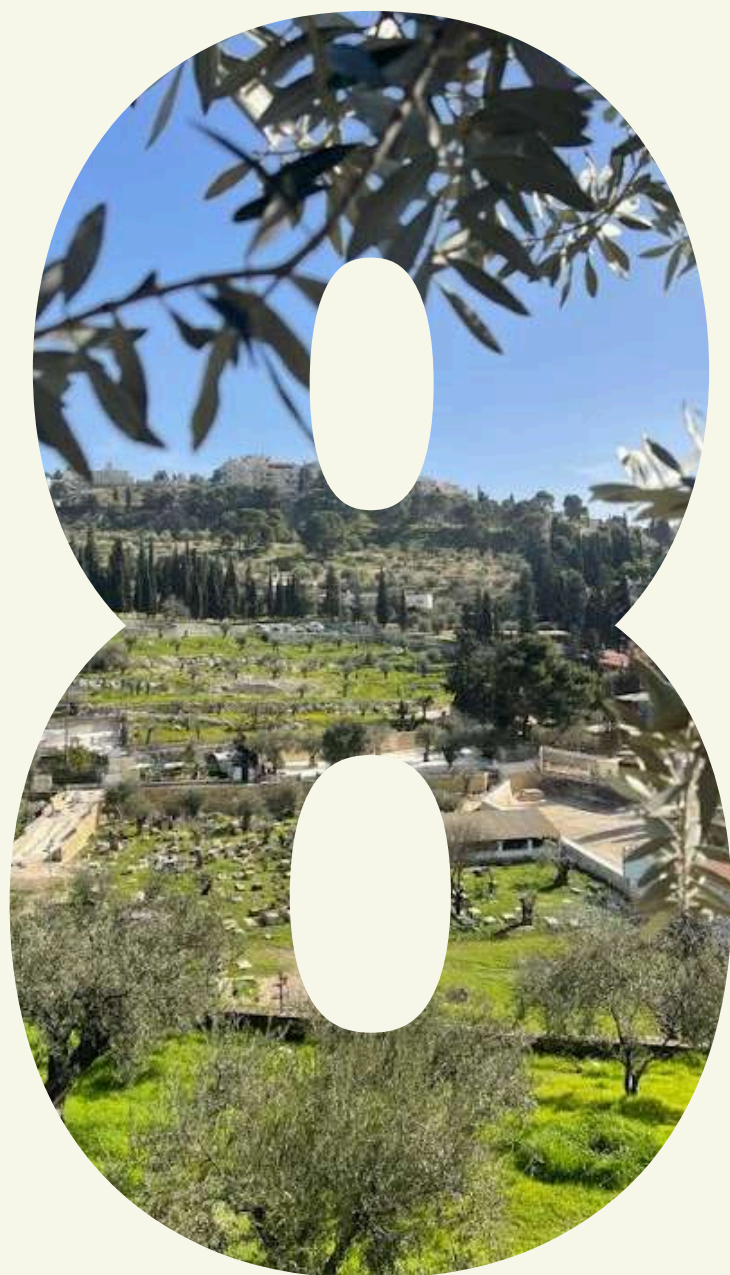
**Message for the World Day of Peace 1 January 2026**

**Eight stages contemplating the mystery of the Resurrection  
in the Gospels following the steps of the women, the  
apostles with Mary, the disciples of Jesus “from the eighth  
day on a journey with the Risen Lord”.**

**Eight steps to take with so many peoples who live in conflict  
in the words of Pope Leo XIV at the Prayer Vigil to implore  
the gift of peace, on Saturday 11 April 2026**

Photos by  
Codruta Fernea,  
January 2026

V I A L U C I S



Let us contemplate  
**the mystery of the Resurrection**

**stages** following  
*the steps of the women,  
the apostles with Mary, the  
disciples of Jesus*

from the eighth day on a journey with the Risen Lord

*For personal prayers – For community prayers*

## FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS – FOR COMMUNITY PRAYERS

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### A. INTRODUCTION

B. THE EIGHT STAGES FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN:

- ALLELUIA
- LISTENING TO THE WORLD OF GOD
- SILENCE
- POPE LEO'S FINAL PRAYER, SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2026
- ALLELUIA

C. FINAL BLESSING WITH ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

## Prayer

Lord Jesus,  
you conquered death without weapons or violence:  
you shattered its power with the strength of peace.  
Grant us your peace,  
as you did to the women filled with doubt on Easter morning,  
as you did to the disciples who were hiding in fear.  
Send forth your Spirit,  
the breath that gives life and reconciles,  
that turns adversaries and enemies into brothers and sisters.  
Inspire in us to trust in Mary, your mother,  
who stood at the foot of your cross with a broken heart,  
firm in the faith that you would rise again.  
May the madness of war cease  
and the Earth be cared for and cultivated by those who still  
know how to bring forth, protect and love life.  
Hear us, Lord of life!

# **THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST**

**Matthew 28, 1-8**



# **THE RISEN CHRIST APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE**

**John 20, 1-18**



# **THE RISEN CHRIST APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES ON THEIR WAY TO EMMAUS**

**Luke 24, 13-35**



# THE RISEN CHRIST APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES AND TO THOMAS

John 20, 19-29



# JESUS GIVES HIMSELF IN THE EUCHARIST

John 6, 30-40



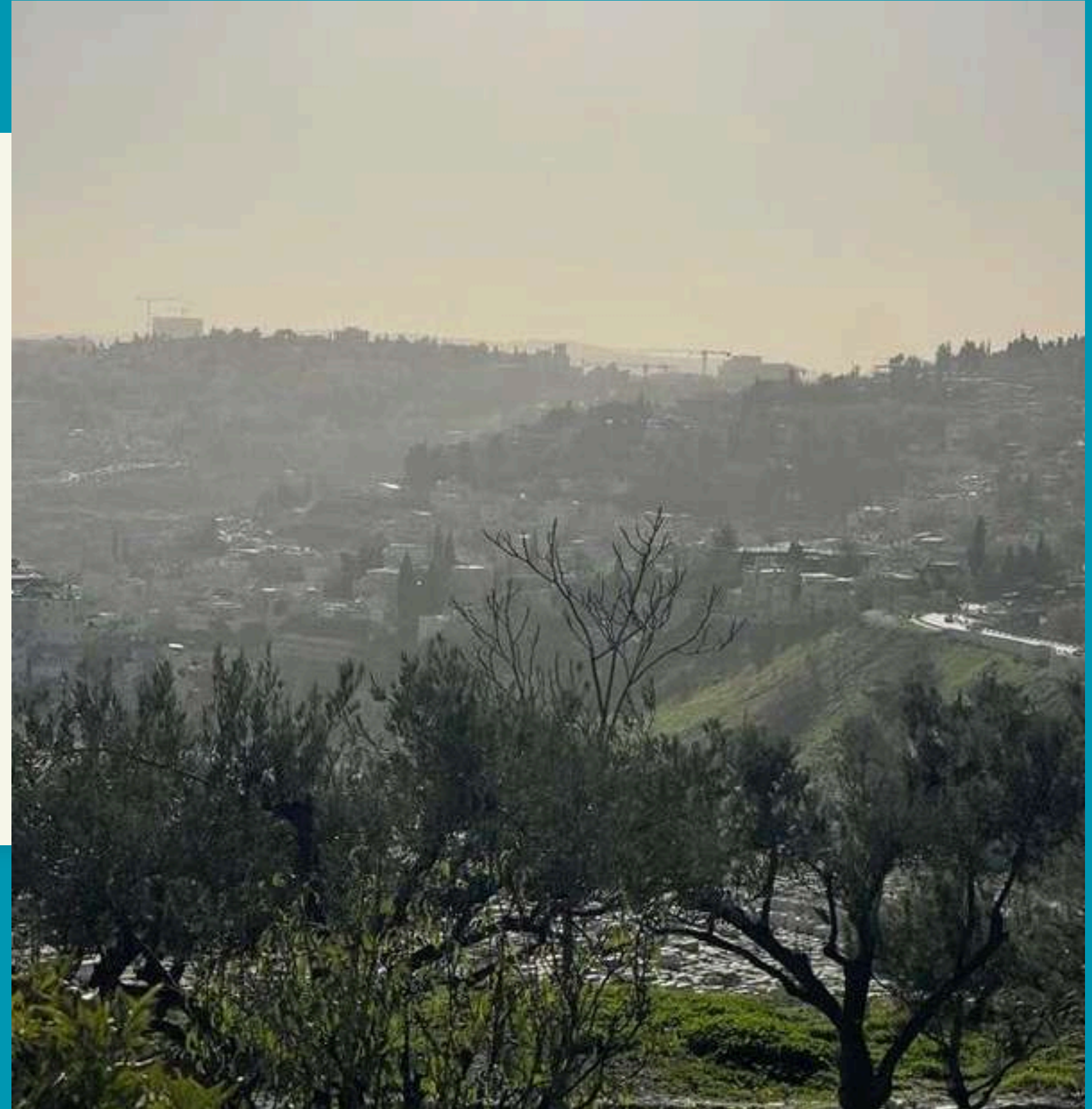
# **THE RISEN CHRIST APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES ON THE LAKE OF TIBERIAS**

**John 21, 1-25**



# **THE RISEN CHRIST ASCENDS TO HEAVEN (THE ASCENSION)**

**Acts of the Apostles 1, 1-14**



# **THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (PENTECOST)**

**Acts of the Apostles 2, 1-12; 14; 22-24**



# WIAAPAGS



**with people who are suffering in conflicts**

**Let us, therefore, unite the moral and spiritual strength of the millions and billions of men and women, young and old, who today choose to believe in peace, caring for the wounds and repairing the damage left behind by the madness of war. I receive countless letters from children in areas of conflict. In reading them, one perceives, through the lens of innocence, all the horror and inhumanity of actions that some adults boast of with pride. Let us listen to the voices of children!**

War divides; hope unites. Arrogance tramples upon others; love lifts up. Idolatry blinds us; the living God enlightens. My dearest friends, all it takes is a little faith, a mere “crumb” of faith, in order to face this dramatic hour in history together — as humanity and alongside humanity. Prayer is not a refuge in which to hide from our responsibilities, nor an anesthetic to numb the pain provoked by so much injustice. Rather, it is the most selfless, universal and transformative response to death: we are a people who are already risen! Within each of us, within every human being, the interior Teacher teaches peace, urges us toward encounter and inspires us to make supplication. Let us rise from the rubble! Nothing can confine us to a predetermined fate, not even in this world where there never seem to be enough graves, for people continue to crucify one another and eliminate life, with no regard to justice and mercy

# 1 Let's pray for... Jerusalem and the Holy Land

Prayer teaches us how to act. In prayer, our limited human possibilities are joined to the infinite possibilities of God. Thoughts, words and deeds then break the demonic cycle of evil and are placed at the service of the Kingdom of God. A Kingdom in which there is no sword, no drone, no vengeance, no trivialization of evil, no unjust profit, but only dignity, understanding and forgiveness.



Mappa di Madapa

## 2 Let's pray for... Lebanon and the Middle East

It is here that we find a bulwark against that delusion of omnipotence that surrounds us and is becoming increasingly unpredictable and aggressive. The balance within the human family has been severely destabilized. Even the holy Name of God, the God of life, is being dragged into discourses of death. A world of brothers and sisters with one heavenly Father vanishes, as in a nightmare, giving way to a reality populated by enemies. We are met by threats, rather than the invitation to listen and to come together.



# 3 Let's pray for... Ukraine

Brothers and sisters, those who pray are aware of their own limitations; they do not kill or threaten with death. Instead, death enslaves those who have turned their backs on the living God, turning themselves and their own power into a mute, blind and deaf idol (cf. Ps 115:4–8), to which they sacrifice every value, demanding that the whole world bend its knee.

Enough of the idolatry of self and money! Enough of the display of power! Enough of war!



# 4 Let's pray for... the Caribbean, Venezuela, Haiti

Dear brothers and sisters, there are certainly binding responsibilities that fall to the leaders of nations. To them we cry out: Stop! It is time for peace! Sit at the table of dialogue and mediation, not at the table where rearmament is planned and deadly actions are decided! Yet there is a no less significant responsibility that falls to all of us — men and women from all over the world. We are an immense multitude that rejects war not only in word, but also in deed.



# 5 Let's pray for... Africa and the countries of the Great Lakes region

Prayer calls us to leave behind whatever violence remains in our hearts and minds. Let us turn to a Kingdom of peace that is built up day by day – in our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and civil and religious communities. A Kingdom that counters polemics and resignation through friendship and a culture of encounter. Let us believe once again in love, moderation and good politics. We must form ourselves and get personally involved, each following our own calling. Everyone has a place in the mosaic of peace!



# 6 Let's pray for... il Sudan

Peace gains ground in the same way: word by word, deed by deed, just as a rock is hollowed out drop by drop, or fabric woven stitch by stitch. These are the slow rhythms of life, a sign of God's patience. We must not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the pace of a world that does not know what it is chasing. Rather, we must return to serving the rhythm of life, the harmony of creation and healing its wounds.



# 7 Let's pray for... Myanmar

As Pope Francis taught us, “There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter” (Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti, 225). There is, indeed, “an ‘architecture’ of peace, to which different institutions of society contribute, each according to its own area of expertise, but there is also an ‘art’ of peace that involves us”.



# 8 Let's pray for... Asia and Bangladesh

The Church is a great people at the service of reconciliation and peace. She advances without hesitation, even when rejecting the logic of war may lead to misunderstanding and scorn. She proclaims the Gospel of peace and instills obedience to God rather than any human authority, especially when the inherent dignity of other human beings is threatened by continuous violations of international law.



let us make our own **the prayer by which Saint Francis invites us to live our lives as a journey of ever-deepening participation in the communion of love that unites the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God, give us miserable ones the grace to do for you alone what we know you want us to do and always to desire what pleases you. Inwardly cleansed, interiorly enlightened and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit, may we be able to follow in the footprints of your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and, by your grace alone, may we make our way to you. Amen. (Letter to the Entire Order, 50-52). Let us conclude with the ancient biblical blessing (cf. Num 6:24-26), with which Saint Francis was accustomed to bless the friars and all the people, so much so that it came to be regarded as his own blessing (cf. Blessing for Brother Leo).

The Lord be with you.

℞. And with your spirit.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

℞. Amen.

May he let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy.

℞. Amen.

May he turn his countenance toward you and give you his peace.

℞. Amen.

And may the blessing of Almighty God,  
the Father ✠ and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit ✠,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

℞. Amen.

**Concluding invocation and blessing**

**Via Crucis**

**Leo XIV, 3 April 2026**

