

Prayer for peace around May 8, 2025 & European peace ringing

May 8, 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the World War II. As churches, we see it as our responsibility to keep remembrance alive. Commemoration means remembering the countless victims of the national socialist reign of terror. Remembering means that we understand the contexts and are able to draw the right conclusions for our future. If we understand the suffering, the hardship and the injustice, we can ensure that nothing comparable happens again. The mindset of the World War II contradicts any understanding of human dignity, charity and cohesion. It thrives on discrimination, persecution, mistrust and division. We learn from the past that a livable future is only possible without these elements that undermine society.

We are aware of our responsibility to ensure that discriminatory and destructive ideas never become commonplace again.

In commemoration of this time and in recognition of the responsibility we bear for the future, we recommend holding prayers for peace. Let us pause in remembrance of the victims and survivors. And let us reinforce the importance of peace wherever we are.

Prayers for peace on May 8, 2025

Prayers for peace will be held in many European cities and communities to commemorate May 8, 1945. Join the remembrance of the past and the prospect of our joint future in silence and in prayer. Express the desire for peace, present your request to God. Join in the remembrance and take a moment to reflect on the past and the future. Set a sign of peace, and plea to God for peace.

Enclosed you will find the draft for a prayer for peace to be held around May 8, 2025.

Many parishes have fixed days and times as well as liturgical procedures for prayers for peace. You are welcome to adapt the attached peace prayer to your specific needs.

Europe rings for peace

On Europe Day, May 9, 2025 at 6 pm, *Europe Rings for Peace* is calling for the bells to ring for peace. This symbolic sign will make people pause and remember peace across national borders. It is a moment of cohesion, an expression of people across Europe working together for a more peaceful future.

We encourage you to combine the prayer for peace with the ringing of bells on May 9 at 18:00.

Further information about the European Peace Ringing “Europe Rings for Peace” can be found here:

<https://kulturkirche2025.de/europe-rings-for-peace-europaeisches-friedenslauten/>

