



# Holy Hour for Liberty

All Hymns taken from Breaking Bread 2005

**Exposition:** #340 "Ubi Caritas" vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

## Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

**(All): O God our Creator,**  
from your provident hand we have received  
our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.  
You have called us as your people and given us  
the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God,  
and your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit,  
you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,  
bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel  
to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us  
in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.  
Give us the strength of mind and heart  
to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;  
give us courage in making our voices heard  
on behalf of the rights of your Church  
and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,  
a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters  
gathered in your Church  
in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,  
so that, with every trial withstood  
and every danger overcome—  
for the sake of our children, their children,  
and all who come after us—  
this great land will always be "one nation, under God,  
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Rosary

## Reading: from Galatians 4:31-5-1:

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman. Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. The Word of the Lord.

### Rosary Beginning

1st Decade: Agony in the Garden For Pope Francis, our ecclesiastical superiors and all priests.

Ending Prayer for Decade: For the freedom to worship. **Give us your grace.**

Hymn: #634 "America, the Beautiful" vs. 1 and 3.

2nd Decade: Scourging at the Pillar For our President, Government Leaders and all Civil Authority.

Ending Prayer for Decade: For the freedom to worship. **Give us your grace.**

### Reflection:

**The fact is that** men of the present day want to be able freely to profess their religion in private and in public. Religious freedom has already been declared to be a civil right in most constitutions, and it is solemnly recognized in international documents. The further fact is that forms of government still exist under which, even though freedom of religious worship receives constitutional recognition, the powers of government are engaged in the effort to deter citizens from the profession of religion and to make life difficult and dangerous for religious Communities.

This sacred Synod greets with joy the first of these two facts, as among the signs of the times. With sorrow, however, it denounces the other fact, as only to be deplored. The Synod exhorts Catholics, and it directs a plea to all men, most carefully to consider how greatly necessary religious freedom is, especially in the present condition of the human family.

All nations are coming into even closer unity. Men of different cultures and religions are being brought together in closer relationships. There is a growing consciousness of the personal responsibility that weighs upon every man. All this is evident.

Consequently, in order that relationships of peace and harmony may be established and maintained within the whole of mankind, it is necessary that

religious freedom be everywhere provided with an effective constitutional guarantee, and that respect be shown for the high duty and right of man freely to lead his religious life in society.

*(Declaration on Religious Liberty (Dignitatis Humanae), no. 15 December 7, 1965)*

3rd Decade: Crowning with Thorns For our Superiors and Sisters especially those who have died.

Ending Prayer for Decade: For the freedom to worship... **Give us your grace.**

Hymn: #633 "This is My Song" vs. 1 and 3.

4th Decade: Carrying of the Cross For our Parents, Relatives and Friends.

Ending Prayer for Decade: For the freedom to worship... **Give us your grace.**

Reflection:

In concluding its Declaration of Religious Freedom, the Council rejoiced in the fact that religious freedom has been enshrined in the constitutions of many countries as well as in international statements. However, the Council Fathers are well aware that religious freedom is not guaranteed merely when it is stated on a piece of paper. It must be exercised by a living body of people. Moreover, there are actual governments that act against religious communities, sometime in the name of religion. The Council Fathers find such situations appalling and ask that Catholics and all people of good will work to rectify this injustice.

Since the Vatican Council, has religious freedom improved or deteriorated throughout the world? What is the relationship between growing religious diversity, as well as growing interactions among people of different faiths, and religious liberty?

5th Decade: Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord For all those who have asked for our prayers and for those for whom we are obliged to pray.

Ending Prayer for Decade: For the freedom to worship... **Give us your grace.**

Hymn: #636 "America" vs. 1 and 4.

Intercessions for Liberty: Response: **Give us your grace.**

- For our President, Governor, legislators, judges, and all in service to the common good, that through the gift of heavenly wisdom they may work to

uphold religious freedom and conscience protection for all. Let us pray to the Lord. ***Give us your grace.***

- For people of faith who fight to preserve religious liberty, may the Lord strengthen their resolve to hold firm in their witness. Let us pray to the Lord. ***Give us your grace.***

- For the rights of individuals and institutions to conduct their professional lives according to their religious convictions. Let us pray to the Lord. ***Give us your grace.***

Hail Holy Queen

## Litany for Liberty

*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

### INTRODUCTION

Christ the Lord has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Let us turn to him in humble but fervent petition, seeking the grace to root out from our hearts all trace of darkness, and all that holds us back from walking in the full freedom of the children of God. As Christ is our great model for that inner freedom, which enables us to do the right, let us turn to him with confidence that we, too, may follow him to the fullness of spiritual freedom.

Lord, have mercy; ***Lord, have mercy.***  
Christ, have mercy; ***Christ, have mercy.***  
Lord, have mercy; ***Lord, have mercy.***

Jesus, victor over sin and death... ***Free our hearts.***  
Jesus, source of light and hope... ***Free our hearts.***  
Jesus, fullness of truth and mystery... ***Free our hearts.***  
Jesus, teacher of seeking hearts... ***Free our hearts.***  
Jesus, healer of body and soul... ***Free our hearts.***  
Jesus, bringer of mercy and justice... ***Free our hearts.***  
Jesus, you who humble the heart and mind... ***Free our hearts.***  
Jesus, release of captives... ***Free our hearts.***  
Jesus, voice against violence... ***Free our hearts.***  
Jesus, courage for the lowly/downtrodden... ***Free our hearts.***  
Jesus, origin of all authority and power... ***Free our hearts.***  
Jesus, true lawgiver... ***Free our hearts.***

Jesus, unity of order and passion... **Free our hearts.**  
Jesus, freedom of the Spirit... **Free our hearts.**  
Jesus, obedient Son of the Father... **Free our hearts.**

For the freedom to love... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to believe... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to hope... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to worship... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to serve in charity... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to care for the suffering... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to comfort the sick... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to feed the hungry... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to shelter the homeless... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to proclaim the Gospel... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to walk in chastity... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to live in peace... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to work in good conscience... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to stand in solidarity... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to seek justice... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to reject sin... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to reject coercion... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to reject falsehood... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to reject evil temptations... **Give us your grace.**  
For the freedom to reject injustice... **Give us your grace.**

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, who gave one origin to all peoples  
and willed to gather from them one family for yourself,  
fill all hearts, we pray, with the fire of your love  
and kindle in them a desire  
for the just advancement of their neighbor,  
that, through the good things which you richly bestow upon all,  
each human person may be brought to perfection,  
every division may be removed,  
and equity and justice may be established in human society.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

**Reposition:** #518 "Give Thanks to the Lord" vs. 2, 8, 10