

Week of Prayer 2025

“Contend for the faith”

The 2025 material of the International Week of Prayer was coordinated by the Executive Committee of the Italian Evangelical Alliance.

Editorial

The family that prays together stays together!

When my wife and I were working as missionaries in western Botswana, HIV/Aids was starting to go around like wildfire. One of the strategies to combat the spread of the virus was testing for the virus. The slogan was: COUPLES THAT TEST TOGETHER STAY TOGETHER. The idea was of course that knowing your HIV status and being transparent about it to your partner (husband or wife), would help to curb the pandemic.

The slogan was derived from another slogan: “The family that prays together stays together”. What is indeed more uniting than praying together, kneeling down before our Heavenly Father, who loved us so much that He created us and reconciled us to Him through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him we can go to the Father. Through Him and through faith in Him we are children of God. Family indeed: brothers and sisters!

Our Lord Jesus knew that His family would be targeted by His enemy. Hence He prayed that they would always be one, so that the world would know that He is the Christ (Joh 17:21ff). Unity is never a goal in itself: it is about Christ and about faith in Him. It is about God’s Mission.

Jesus Christ prayed. So we should pray also. Rather than debating all kinds of issues we may differ about, or worry, we should bring them before the throne of God together. Our Heavenly Father who knows far better what we need, than we know ourselves!

In that light I am really excited about the material that is prepared by our brothers and sisters from Italy again to help you pray. Not only personally, but also together. Together with other brothers and sisters in your neighbourhood. Because we know that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

This world is so much in need of that prayer! Prayer for healing, for peace, for justice, for a Church that is Salt and Light and City on a Hill that can not be hidden, for ... salvation. For people that proclaim and demonstrate that Jesus is King.

Therefore, my friends - or rather: my brothers and sisters – let us be a prayerful family!

Rev. Jan Wessels

General Secretary of the European Evangelical Alliance

Preliminary remarks by the editorial team

Jude's letter has a very important message for our time: the Christian faith is a fighting faith. While the wars of "flesh and blood" that we know so well are a terrible and destructive thing, Christian warfare on the contrary is motivated by love - love for God and neighbours. Thus, it makes this warfare far removed from those kinds of violent battles, and yet at the same time it is far deeper and more painful. For it has to do with God, His holiness and His righteousness.

Each nation we represent, in different and more or less intense ways, is traversed by varying tides of scepticism and atheism, universalisms, syncretism and spiritualism of various kinds, spiritual and material idolatries, and humanistic "false gospels" dressed up as Christianity. Jude recalls the prophecies of the apostles who announced that such tides would reach the church of Christ, in flesh and blood. His assessment is alarming but real.

Michael Green, commenting on the letter of Jude, asserts that it remains uncomfortably and poignantly relevant "so long as sin needs to be exposed, so long as man needs to be reminded that persistent wrongdoing ends in ruin, that lust is self-defeating, that intellectualism devoid of love is a barren thing, and that Christian theology has no right to outrun the 'faith once delivered to the saints'" (Green, 2015).

Joining together in prayer this week, in order to be faithful together and to contend for faith, is then the best way to start the year. Let us ask God the Father for his blessing that we may honour him, ask the Holy Spirit for his guidance to distinguish our worldly battles from those of God, and ask Christ to experience his love that can guard us in this arduous task.

Executive Committee

Italian Evangelical Alliance

Recommendations for Hosting a WOP Prayer Meeting

Many local churches in Europe take this Week of Prayer as an opportunity to organise joint prayer meetings, which we would like to encourage. Here are a few suggestions to keep in mind when you plan:

1. Please make sure that ALL evangelical churches are invited and included in your prayer gatherings. Make an extra effort to also reach out to the migrant churches. Do you have Roma churches that you could invite? Including everyone will make your unity richer and more diverse.
2. Going to several locations will add to your experience, so don't forget about the smaller towns and communities. Each place is different and adds colour to your unity.
3. How can you express the vast diversity in your country in a practical way? Being open to others, making room for different communities adds surprising perspectives to unity.
4. Is your event relevant and appealing to youth? We encourage you to allow youth to participate and even help you plan and prepare. Unity across generations is essential for the Church.
5. Be creative when planning your prayer meeting. Make sure it is relevant and appealing, and double check that prayer occupies the bulk of time.
6. We urge you to keep a gender balance. Have both men and women working together to create a program that will help express diversity.
7. Consider the future. Imagine seeing this event grow throughout the years. How can you create this year's prayer event that will draw people back and bring their friends with them?

Program of the Week

Day 1 - CONTEND with love and for love. (Jude 21; 1Cor 13:6)

Day 2 - CONTEND since we are called, loved, and kept. (Jude 1-2)

Day 3 - **CONTEND for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.** (Jude 3-4)

Day 4 - CONTEND not forgetting past battles. (Jude 5-11)

Day 5 - CONTEND by avoiding disruptive behaviours. (Jude 12-16)

Day 6 - CONTEND by being patient with doubters. (Jude 17-23)

Day 7 - CONTEND by glorifying the Triune God. (Jude 24-25)

Day 8 - THE AMEN OF CONTENDING: Allies under one Lord.

Day 1 - CONTEND with love and for love

"keep yourselves in the love of God". Jude 21

"Love...does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth". 1Cor 13:6

Devotion

When reading the letter of Jude one might be distracted by the alarmed tone and sharp statements in it, not realising that one has before one's eyes a letter of love – the love of a friend who hurts but remains faithful (Pr. 27:6-7), of a brother who was born to stand by you in adversity (Pr. 7:7), of a friend who will not give up telling you the truth to save your life (Jn 3:3).

Jude is a friend who has learned as a servant of Jesus Christ what true love is, ready to lay down his life for those he loves. Jude learned alongside others, like his brother James, to love those whom God first loved. Therefore, in the face of countless pitfalls to their common faith and the malice of ungodly men, ready to "pervert grace into sensuality" and to "deny our only Master and Lord of Christ" (v.4), he cannot keep silent, nor delay nor stall. He is compelled to write to his brethren: love makes this letter necessary with its lucid and timely evaluations, with memory of history and divine promises, and with pastoral encouragements. The church of Christ, and every believer individually, still needs to be moved by the same spirit.

Jude writes with urgency not out of love for himself, but out of love for Christ and his friends, and he does so by showing that true love that 'does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth'.

The Word of God this week invites us to leave our comfortable armchairs, bend our knees, and pray to God to open our eyes and hearts to the voice of the Spirit to discern the sin that "infiltrates" us and his people, in various forms (religious, cultural, social) transforming God's grace into humanist do-goodism and undervaluing the need for Christ. He invites us to fight sin with love and out of love.

Christ's love in us motivates us to fight with the love he himself showed towards sinners.

It will not be the violence of words and the aggressiveness of gestures, nor sappy sentimentality that will make the truth of Christ victorious in our cities, nations and continents. It will be sacrificial love, which speaks the truth with grace to one's brother, one's neighbour and one's time; a love that does not fear for its life or reputation but is willing to lose both to allow justice to shine. Love compels us to speak the truth because truth leads to Christ. On the cross Christ fought sin for us, with love and out of love.

Thanksgiving

We praise you Father because you have shown us what true love is, by giving us your Son.

We thank you because Christ told us the whole truth and gave his life for love of it.

We thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit by whom we can live motivated by your own love.

Confession

We ask your forgiveness because too often we fight battles out of love for ourselves, our own interests, and reputations.

We ask your forgiveness because our spiritual sight is weak, our heart is lukewarm, and our spirit is not steadfast in following you.

We ask your forgiveness because we too often separate love from truth and vice versa.

Request

Help your people, o Lord, that we may love you and your Word more than anything and may that love motivate our life of faith.

Open our spiritual eyes that we may recognise the challenges to faith in our time.

Help us to desire what You desire for Your people, and may we fight with love for Your desires.

Stelluti Lucia

Vice President

Italian Evangelical Alliance

Day 2 - CONTEND since we are called, loved, and kept

*“Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,
To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:
May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.” Jude 1-2*

Devotion

Jude reminds his recipients that those who have responded to God the Father's call also enjoy His immense love. To be 'loved in God the Father' implies a relationship with Him: a personal, intimate love, independent of our condition or capabilities. Jesus Christ Himself came into the world impersonating this divine love and the letter states that He Himself keeps us in this love. Being the object of the Father's love in Christ also implies preserving and living the love of spiritual communion with God amidst the struggles of faith.

This love finds concrete expression in loving one another as Christ commanded us as a sign of the true disciple (John 13:34-35).

But how can we experience such love in the midst of oppression, persecution, and attacks on our faith and the integrity of the Gospel? Jude gives us the answer: Jesus in His unconditional love offers an eternal safekeeping that goes beyond human limitations, the perception of our senses, of our feelings and of the circumstances. He promises never to forsake those who believe in Him and to be with them in every circumstance of life - "...and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20b). It is He who keeps us in His love and enables us to cherish it.

Appreciative of being loved in God and being kept in Christ, Jude invites us to contend so that this great truth may remain firmly rooted in our lives and may be made real every day in us and not only in us, but also in those around us, through our courageous witness.

By placing our faith in Christ, the first one who loved us and the only one who is able to keep us in his love, we are called to strenuously fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12). He multiplies his mercy, his peace and his love to us. Let us pray for one another as Jude prayed for his brothers and sisters, that we may hold fast to God's Word. We have been privileged to become heirs and defenders of the wonderful and eternal Kingdom of God and of a unique King who loves and cherishes his own, fighting alongside them.

Thanksgiving

Father, we will never cease to thank You for giving us the opportunity to open our hearts and see Beyond, into the Invisible.

You have kindled in our being the flame of your love, the light of your knowledge, and we thank You for your faithfulness to us, making us in turn faithful to your divine Word.

Confession

Oh Lord, preserve us from the Evil One and from all temptation.

Forgive us that we often forget that we are children "beloved in God the Father and cherished by Jesus Christ".

Forgive us because we often forsake the daily battle of expressing and maintaining our faith in you, of preserving it from the attacks of opponents, of defending it wisely.

When we fall, give us the grace to rise again. Do not allow our foot to falter and our faith to become insipid.

Request

With humility and submission to your will, help us to strive to persevere faithfully in your ways, to proclaim your Word with consistency, boldness and love, knowing that we are fully loved and cherished by You in this task.

Salvo Bonaccorsi

General Secretary

Italian Evangelical Alliance

Day 3 - CONTEND for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints

"Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints". Jude 3

Devotion

At a time of intense conflict, in which the horror of war has reappeared at the gates of Europe, it is not easy to meditate on a verse that invites us to fight. It becomes necessary, then, to start from a premise that can guide us in meditating on this passage in order to grasp its essential principles. Jude does not exhort believers to fight against someone, but to fight for something. This subtle but fundamental difference should shelter us from any fundamentalist and intolerant deviation that degenerates, inexorably, into conflict. Referring to the athletic metaphor, rather than the military one, we are exhorted to do our best, to be ready to measure ourselves against others publicly and to 'run with endurance the race that is set before us', as the writer of Hebrews would say. It is a competition for which every believer must be ready, which places before all of us the responsibility to be properly prepared, to be willing to make a serious commitment when the opportunity arises, to bear good witness in the public arena, rather than hiding in high-walled folds.

Now let us consider what we are encouraged to compete for. Although Jude's original intention was to produce a more articulate writing on 'common salvation', the urgency of the circumstances led him to concentrate his thoughts in the few verses that make up this letter. The impression is that, by the end of the apostolic period, a doctrinal content shared by the fledgling Christian communities had been consolidated on the basis of oral transmission and certain written documents that were later incorporated into the New Testament canon. The faith spoken of in this verse, therefore, does not concern the individual believer's experience with God and his response to the offer of grace, but the fundamental teachings transmitted by the apostles about Jesus and his work of redemption. Then the 'common salvation' is such because it unites all who believe in Christ: it is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), regardless of ethnicity, gender or social status.

Such salvation does not take place in mere intellectual adherence, but has ethical and moral consequences that involve the entire existence of the believer and the church of God. This is why Jude must warn his readers (and all of us) against those who contradict the work of grace with licentious conduct and proclaim a theology that does not recognise Jesus as Lord and Saviour, Son of God. We may, therefore, find in the Pauline statement - "[There is] one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5) - a yardstick for distinguishing false teachings from disagreements on secondary doctrinal issues. Without going into details that will be covered later in this letter and in this booklet, suffice it to mention the danger of "cheap grace" (Bonhoeffer). False teachings pervert the gospel and contradict it by conduct contrary to its genuine essence. Rather, we are encouraged to make good use of the freedom that our divine sonship grants us, to accept the call to holiness of heart and life that results in a faithful witness of loving service.

Thanksgiving

We are thankful for the work of grace that frees us from sin, to live in newness of life.
For the faithful witness of men and women throughout the centuries who have committed themselves to passing on a faith rooted in the Scriptures.

Confession

We ask forgiveness for all the times we have spoken harshly, leaving room for intolerance and misunderstanding.
We repent if we have preferred the safety of our communities to the challenge of public witness to our faith.

Request

We pray that we may receive divine discernment to distinguish between genuine teachings rooted in the Gospel and false doctrines that seek to distort the message of Christ.
We ask God for help, that we may sincerely commit ourselves to the vocation He has given us, to live holiness in our daily lives, as communities that serve others with love and humility.

Rev. Dr. Matteo Ricciardi

AEI - Northwest District

Pastor of the Church of the Nazarene

Lecturer at the European Nazarene College

Day 4 - CONTEND not forgetting past battles

“For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ...” Jude 4-11

Devotion

The "faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" is a priceless heritage, inherited by the people of God. Its recognition, preservation, and transmission, however, are constantly threatened. It is an ever-open front in Christian combat.

Jude witnessed the infiltration among Christians of fundamentally divided, deviant and distrustful people, who, using apparently orthodox language and forms, sought to divide, deviate and instil doubt in God's people. The main objective of those who fight Christianity, today just as it was then, is to hinder the fulfilment of God's plan. These are, basically, threats to Christianity's fundamental confession of faith: "Jesus is Lord" (v.4).

It is certainly due to the work of the Holy Spirit that today, twenty centuries after Jude's statement, the inherited heritage still retains all its value and importance in the Lord's church. The same Spirit who had raised up courageous people and was able to stop the pretensions of deceivers like Balaam or the followers of Korah, is the One who calls and equips children of God who are determined not to flinch from the pitfalls and dangers that the Christian faith encounters daily.

Jude teaches us that Jesus, the Lord and just judge, exercised his right in and over history. This truth is sufficient to believe that history was and is totally under his control. This truth is also effective for not backing down in the fight, by cultivating the memory of the concrete acts performed by the Lord in history.

The preservation of the legacy thus inevitably passes through a healthy cultivation of memory. We too receive Moses' constant exhortation to the people freed from the bondage of Egypt: 'do not forget'.

Let us then remember the battles of the past. Let us remember how the people of God resisted through persecution in the early centuries; let us remember the struggle to preserve fundamental doctrines such as that of the Trinity; let us remember the challenges to the heresy of the Church of Rome and the achievement of true reform; let us remember the struggle against liberal infiltration of evangelical theology. These are just some of the highlights of our history, and it is a privilege to be part of the Evangelical Alliance, born and nurtured in the midst of the fight to preserve the faith 'once for all delivered to the saints'.

Thanksgiving

Thank you, Lord for passing on the faith, as a heritage for the life of your people. Thank you for those who fought, before and after the coming of Jesus, for its definition, preservation and transmission. Thank you because we can cultivate a memory of your concrete interventions in history!

Confession

We confess that we have relegated your lordship to our personal and private sphere, denying your right over all reality. We confess that we were presumptuous when we neglected memory. We thought we were the first or even the only heirs of the apostolic faith, ignoring the exercise of your lordship over the last two thousand years. We confess that we have often confused the memory of the past with nostalgia, taking refuge in selfish memories and retreating from combat.

Requests

We pray for a renewed awareness in the evangelical world of God's lordship over all history. For the development of initiatives by the various National Evangelical Alliances to valorise and build on our history. For the growth of evangelical churches committed to recognising, preserving and transmitting the heritage of the "faith once for all delivered to the saints".

Sergio De Blasi

AEI - North-East District

Reformed Baptist Church in Italy

Day 5 - CONTEND by avoiding disruptive behaviours

"These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted..." Jude 12-16

Devotion

There have always been people in the churches who pretend to be of Christ, but who prove by their lives to be 'twice dead, uprooted' trees, which Jesus elsewhere calls 'tares'. The radical nature of the biblical message is clear in this regard. Jude, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit focuses on a firm and decisive condemnation. Like a detective, he lists the character, emotional and verbal aspects of those who pretend to know and love Christ, when in fact they "have not the Spirit" (v.19). Scripture calls them false apostles, prophets, doctors or brothers. Jude shows us their characteristics. They do diabolical work within the churches, unloading their dissatisfactions onto others, discrediting and flattering for the sake of mere vainglory and to indulge their well-hidden pride. Fake converts who carry on the profession of slanderers and therefore show detest for the work of Jesus Christ and the beauty of the church as the house of God.

Their goal is to sow confusion and instability, starting with the weakest in the faith. After gaining a following, they aim for the leadership of the community. They can remain hidden for years and can see God's blessings like the Levites whom Jude remembers (v.11.), Korah, Datan and Abiram, but remain rebellious against Moses and ultimately against the Lord himself (Num.16). They do not seek Jesus but a religiosity of which to boast and with which to exercise power and abuse over others. The letter of Jude commits us to fight for the faith, and this also involves evaluating and weighing wisely according to the Spirit (12-16).

But it is not enough to evaluate. In this difficult time of ours, in which the self is deified and refuses to accept rebuke, recall, reproof, discipline, Jude urges us to make stern decisions, trusting God's already decreed judgement. Every authority is at a loss how to correct and discipline, and the body of Christ, the church, encounters the same difficulties if God's love is sentimentally exalted at the expense of his truth and justice. Paul urged the Corinthians to remove the wicked from the midst of the church (1 Cor. 5:13). But in what way? By spiritually evaluating, justly condemning, but also fighting while avoiding destructive behaviour. Fighting for the faith involves the use of biblical, not human, strategies. We cannot respond to the boastful with arrogance, to the slanderers with calumny, and to the passionate according to our human passions. The fight begins with waiting on God and with patient prayer to preserve peace and self-control. Are we aware that the Holy Spirit knows everything and is at work? Are we certain that "long ago [their] condemnation has been written" (v. 4)? We are equipped by the Word of God to deal with these people. In the meantime, we must be blameless and ready not to give in to the same passions by keeping ourselves sober.

Prayer and patience in God's judgement will set our commitment on the right goals: to watch over the flock and one another, to pay attention to the weak, the "wanderers" and the undecided, to consolidate everyone's biblical knowledge and faith in Christ. When the opportunity arises, will we be confident in God, ready to intervene quickly, with courage, authority and without abuse, exercising the proper discipline that God requires in His church so that the gospel may be preserved?

Psalm 1:5 "Therefore the wicked shall not stand in judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

Thanksgiving

Father, we thank you that you are a just judge. You watch over your people and bring final justice and order. Thank you that in spite of our innumerable failings, and the presences that "stain" the beauty of your people, you carry forward your church, preserve it and do its work of sanctification in her until Christ returns. Thank you that we can trust in your spirit, who enlightens our eyes to weigh and evaluate men and women according to your Word and not according to human criteria.

Confession

We confess to you Father that we are lacking. That we too often use human weapons to defend the gospel. Forgive us for all those times we have responded to evil with evil.

Forgive us for when we have exercised discipline in a disruptive and abusive manner, or have not fought for the faith, exercised discipline where it was needed.

Request

Holy Spirit guide us to judge justly, to condemn according to truth and love, to rebuke and correct with grace, courage and sobriety.

Lord Jesus, we want to be like you. Take away from us all murmuring and discontentment and make us a community of love and discipline so that the Gospel may be preserved.

Riccardo Leonetti

AEI - Campania District

Past. Evangelical Church of Campi Flegrei (Naples)

Day 6 - CONTEND by being patient with doubters

“And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh...”. Jude 22-23

Devotion

As I write this, news is coming in of innocent people losing their lives in ongoing conflicts. Unfortunately, the bombs cannot distinguish between civilians and soldiers.

In his letter, Jude reminds us that the church is at war. It is at war against all those thoughts that proudly rise up against Christ and His gospel. As in all conflicts there is rubble and suffering. The only way we can lessen its impact is to take a different attitude according to the role everyone plays in this conflict. At the end of his short letter, Jude reminds his readers of the need to be able to distinguish among the people involved and consequently adopt the appropriate attitude.

First, there were the doubting people. Jude reminds them that they needed pastoral compassion because they had been disoriented by false doctrines.

Even today, we live in a context where social media has opened the door of our churches to all kinds of theories that can instil doubt and confusion, and not only in immature believers. We as leaders cannot and must not treat these people superficially. Their doubts must be addressed with love and compassion.

Then there were those who were convinced by false doctrines. On them these teachings had a devastating impact on their understanding of the gospel. And without the gospel there is no salvation. Their reaction in this case had to be decisive, they had to be snatched from the fire of judgement! As for us, how do we react in the face of misled people? Do we realise that their understanding of the gospel is vital for their salvation? How many coffees do we want to have with them before we frankly proclaim the good news? Sadly, we sometimes forget that we are in a burning house, that so many people we love are already burning alive.

Finally, there were those who not only were seduced by the lie but also became its masters. These certainly need mercy, Jude says, but this must not be naive. Indeed, they should be cautious and not let false teachers make disciples.

Today, religious fashions are appearing in our churches that are greeted with naive superficiality. Many of these have also produced division in the church. Only a solid 'fear' of God's word can give us the wisdom we need to keep our eyes on God's flock.

We are at war! In this war more than in any other war, casualties must be avoided. Only by discerning well and acquiring a wise heart can we treat the doubters with love, the misguided with frankness, and the heretics with prudence.

Thanksgiving

Lord, we thank you that you give wisdom to those who ask you for it. Thank you that we are not left alone in this battle for the faith, but you guide us with your discernment to know how to distinguish between those who are victims and those who raise their thoughts against you.

Confession

Father, we recognise that we have often shown intolerance towards those who doubt, levity towards the lost and tolerance towards false shepherds. This has led to condemning those who needed help and to leaving room for those who have led many souls astray. We ask your forgiveness for this and trust in your grace.

Requests

We beseech You O Lord, to give much discernment not only to those you have called to lead your church from the pulpit, but also to all God's people. That they may know how to discern truth from error, and also to have the right attitude in this inevitable conflict. We ask these things of you in the name of Christ our Lord.

Marco Cocuzzi

AEI - Central District

Past. Christian Biblical Church

Day 7 - CONTEND by glorifying the Triune God

"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." Jude 24-25

Devotion

One of the great biblical doctrines rediscovered with passion by the Reformers is the so-called 'perseverance of the saints'. Those who have been saved, are saved forever, because their salvation is not based on their own work, will power, some intrinsic merit, but is solely based on the objective work of Christ done once and for all, finished, perfect and efficacious.

We should then say like Jude that it is God's perseverance in the life of the saints, he who can preserve us. It is God who works both the will and the doing in the lives of his children. It is God who by his portentous providence sustains the testimony of his people. It is God who, as a loving Father and powerful Good Shepherd, holds his sheep tightly in his hands, from whose hands no one can snatch them, despite Satan's contrary work, persecution and daily challenges.

This covenantal faithfulness of God is the source of our perseverance in continuing to strive strenuously for the faith 'transmitted to the saints once and for all', with the goal of giving glory to God. We fight, fixing our gaze on Christ the author and perfecter of our faith. We persevere, knowing that the Holy Spirit is at work in us and through us. The Trinity is still sovereign and leads history towards the ultimate telos of all things: His exclusive glory.

This is the comfort, consolation, peace and spiritual 'petrol' that keeps His people going with certain hope. We know that at the end of the good fight, thanks to the merit of Jesus, we shall stand before God not under His holy and righteous wrath, but filled with joy, exultant, to offer Him our eternal song:

"To the one God, our Saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power and might, from all eternity, now and for ever and ever. Amen".

He is the one eternal Triune God, who was, who is, and who always will be worthy of all praise.

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God in prayer, for who He is: sovereign, eternal, faithful, transcendent and immanent at the same time, the King above everything and everyone, but at the same time the Emmanuel who takes care of His church down to the last detail. He will not allow our feet to stumble as we serve Him with a devout heart filled with joy, because of His grace and providence. To Him alone be the glory!

Confession

We ask forgiveness for the many times we lose sight of His sovereignty and love and allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the spiritual warfare that exhausts and overburdens us. For when weariness slows our march as God's people. For when in words we declare the supremacy of the Triune God, but in our hearts this trust is not a complete reality. We also ask forgiveness for the times we have worked not for the glory of God, but for our own idolatrous personal glory.

Request

Holy Spirit renew our trust in the Triune God and despite great challenges, may we never be cast down. Renew your people in motivation, in praise, in service, in testimony, for Your glory alone.

Manuel Morelli

AEI - North Central District

Pastor Evangelical Church "Solo Cristo"

Day 8 - THE AMEN OF CONTENDING: Allies under one Lord

“to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” Jude 25

“And they sang a new song, saying,

«Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.» Rev 5:9-10

Devotion

The concluding invocation of the Epistle of Jude is addressed to the One who can preserve us from every fall and make us appear blameless before his glory. Our story of combat is thus within a greater story. A larger story that protects and leads all those who have been purchased with the blood of the lamb and who are therefore in the covenant of grace with God.

To be covenanted with God in Christ is to receive the effective support that will ensure the victory of every redeemed. From John's apocalypse we understand that we can be God's covenant partners by virtue of a previous covenant, the covenant made between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which voluntarily secured the Son Jesus Christ, blameless and in perfect obedience to the Father, as a substitutionary sacrifice for our salvation. For it is in His blood that we are received (1Co. 11:25) into covenant with Him and are also preserved from the evil one.

For the Amen, the faithful and truthful witness, effectively leads us to the victory already sanctioned on the cross by Jesus Christ. Let us rest, reassured like chicks under the wings of the hen, preserving the unity of the Spirit with the bond of peace, rejoicing, exulting and giving Him all the glory.

Thanksgiving

Father we thank You for giving Your only-begotten Son as an efficacious sacrifice for our salvation. Lord we thank you that you, the Amen, the faithful and truthful witness, sustain our fight and give us victory. Holy Spirit we thank you that you lead us along paths of righteousness.

Confession

We ask forgiveness for the too many times we have imagined ourselves fighting alone, neglecting the fact that you, the Amen, bought us to God with your precious blood to proclaim your Word and make us kings, priests for ever.

Request

Our Father, by virtue of the eternal covenant You have made with Your wonderful Son and the Holy Spirit, we continue to ask You to preserve us from the Evil One, sanctify us in the Truth, and being one in You, send us into the world to proclaim Your Word!

Giacomo Ciccone

President

Italian Evangelical Alliance