

## **Intercession for Belarus**

Eternal and merciful God!

Before you, we think of the people of Belarus today.

More people than ever took to the streets last year  
demonstrated peacefully and happily against the falsification of the election,  
against the arbitrariness and violence of the regime.

They were forcibly dispersed and many thousands arrested.

But they didn't let themselves be intimidated and kept going.

Among them were many Christians, Catholics, Orthodox,  
also members of the small evangelical minority,  
young and old, men and women.

We ask you, God: give them your spirit:

Power, love and prudence.

Don't let them get tired of their hope for a free land  
and strengthen them in their advocacy for the rights of all people.

Lord, have mercy!

You God of the afflicted and abandoned,

Before you we also think of the members of the small Reformed church in Minsk.

Its members have also shown signs of hope  
and peacefully protest against injustice.

Together with others, they laughed and cried and sang.

We think of those who fled the country because of persecution  
and are now separated from their loved ones and friends.

We think of those who are locked away in prison.

They were sentenced on fallacious grounds, and  
should thus be separated from their families for years,  
from, partners, children and parents.

(We especially think of ...

.... and of their relatives ...)

Oh God, the injustice they suffer cries out to heaven!

Comfort them, God! Protect them from abuse and dejection.

Build their confidence and stand by them.

We hope for you. Have mercy!

You, God of peace,

we pray for the people who have suffered injustice and violence.

Give them hope and heal them.

End the hatred, and instead show mutual respect.

Please comfort those who lost loved ones during the protests,  
pay attention to those whose loved ones have disappeared,  
and strengthen those who have been broken physically and spiritually.

Lord, have mercy!