



PRAYER

for Bishop Juhana Pohjola (pronounced You-ha-na Poi-ho-la)
and Dr. Päivi Räsänen (pronounced Pie-vee Ray-zee-nin)
as their cases come before the Finnish courts

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the unjust imprisonment of His Son, we have been set at liberty; through His atoning blood, our consciences are washed clean; through His resurrection, we have the hope of eternal life. To live is Jesus and to die is gain!

We give You thanks, O Father, that You have honored our dear brother and pastor in Christ, Juhana, and our sister in Christ, Päivi, to bear chains for the sake of Your Son's truth. Strengthen their faith in Him and uphold them by the Comforter's power, that Juhana and Päivi may make the good confession before powers and authorities and not be ashamed. Encourage them to remain glad at all times, knowing their reward is great in heaven.

Lord God, You bless and mark Your Church with the sign of the holy cross. Therefore, we do not lose heart because we know that what has happened to them will serve to advance the Gospel. By this imprisonment, make Juhana's fellow pastors around the world even more confident in You, and embolden them to speak the Word without fear. Grant that all Christians may follow their example to speak the truth and confess Christ no matter the consequences. Bring even the members of Caesar's house into the knowledge of this truth; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.



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