



ARCHIEPISCOPUS ABOENSIS FINLANDIAE

***“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.”***

(Luke 2:29)

The message of sorrow concerning the death of Pope Francis has deeply affected Lutherans in Finland. It serves as a poignant reminder of the transient nature of life, while also underscoring the profound impact of a spiritual leader such as him. In Finland, Pope Francis was known as a kind, approachable and deeply pious Christian who was able to make people feel close to God. His willingness to support and defend the most vulnerable of his fellow human beings was particularly valuable. I remember with warmth my encounters with him, most recently the prayer for peace in Rome in October 2022. Blessed be his memory.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Catholic sisters and brothers.

++Tapio Luoma
The Archbishop of Turku and Finland
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland