

**Blessed Jutta of Prussia**  
(Judith of Sangerhausen)  
born c. 1200, Sangerhausen, Thuringia  
died c. 5 May 1260, Kulmsee, Prussia (now Chelmza, Poland)

Jutta was fifteen when her noble family arranged her marriage to a Polish baron, Johannes Konopacki of Bielcza. The marriage was a happy one and all four of their children entered religious orders. Jutta's husband died while on a Crusade in the Holy Land.

At this point, Tartars invaded Poland, torching whole villages and clogging the river Vistula with Christian corpses. When the Tartars moved on to northern Germany (Prussia), Jutta felt called to do something for the suffering Christians there. Encouraged by her friend, Mechthild of Magdeburg, Jutta left her comfortable life behind and arrived in Prussia in 1260. She moved into a rundown cottage in the forest not far from Kulm, near a great marsh called Bielcza. There she led a solitary, austere life, spending most of her time in prayer. She was seen to levitate and remain suspended in the air while she prayed. When Jutta went to the new church at Kulm, she usually walked through the woods, around the marsh, but legend has it that she sometimes took a shortcut and walked straight across the water.

After four years in the forest, Jutta died of fever. Her confessor, the bishop of Kulm, intended to honour her wishes for a quiet burial but changed his plans when people began pouring to Kulm to pay their respects. No one in Prussia had ever seen a peaceful crowd that size. Thirteen priests assisted at her funeral, a remarkable number since most of the missionaries had been massacred by the Tartars. Jutta was buried in the church of the Holy Trinity, in Kulmsee, now a cathedral, where a chapel is dedicated to her.

**The Genius of Jutta of Prussia:**

In a world of chaos, Jutta prayed for peace. She once said, *“Three things can lead us close to God. They are physical suffering, exile in a foreign land, and choosing poverty for God”*. Jutta chose to embrace all three.

**Reflection:**

*“Rejoice always, Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”*

1 Thessalonians 5.16-18

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