



Hour of global prayer 2016

Each year, throughout the world, Christians are invited to unite for the Hour of Global Prayer for the mission of evangelization. Let us plan this celebration so that faithful people of all ages and all nations may experience human fraternity through seeking divine mercy for the grievous sins committed by humankind.

You will need the following items

- The *World Mission Sunday* poster
- A globe or a world map
- The *World Mission Sunday* prayer
- The Pope's prayer for the Year of Mercy
- Colored candles, one for each continent: Africa, green; Asia, yellow; America, red; Europe, white; Oceania, blue.

Setting

This is the Holy Year of Mercy. The gospel for *World Mission Sunday* is the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. After a careful reading of this gospel, we shall reflect on the need for God's mercy in atonement for the grievous sins humankind has committed throughout history.

Reading: Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Prayers of Petition for each continent

Our response to each prayer shall be, "**Amen. We agree!**"

Let us pray for Africa

Lord, we ask your forgiveness for the sins of apartheid, slavery and all other forms of exploitation. Those who committed these horrible acts often saw themselves as Christians. Despite our shame, we humbly pray that you forgive us.

Help us to realize that we are all brothers and sisters deserving of respect and love, no matter our race, religion or nationality. **Amen. We agree!**



Let us pray for Asia

Lord, we present to you the sins of religious wars, religious fundamentalism and all attempts to dominate others in the name of religion. Mankind needs your forgiveness.

Make us respect the different paths taken by people who seek your love. May the diversity of those paths generate admiration rather than apprehension. Ensure that tolerance flourishes between us.

Amen. We agree!

Let us pray for America

Lord, in many regions of the world, native people were not respected; they were exploited and even sometimes, they were eliminated. Some people, who saw themselves as Christians, even doubted that the natives had a soul. We need your forgiveness for those horrendous acts.

Help us realize how the First Nations peoples around the world were able to find you through nature long before the arrival of foreign people and missionaries. We must be inspired by their unique spirituality.

Amen. We agree!

Let us pray for Europe

Lord, in the past, we took part in the inquisition. Today, we are not able to manage the refugee crisis. You forgave your executioners, you can surely forgive us.

Grant us the courage to respond with love to those who wish us misfortune and who trouble our peace. You gave us the example to follow, we must imitate you. **Amen. We agree!**

Let us pray for Oceania

Lord, we have not always respected your creation. We exploit the Earth. We mistreat your creation. Often, we only think about growing richer and we forget to proper stewards of the Earth so that the future generations may enjoy it as well.

We support all efforts worldwide that seek to protect the Earth you have given us. May environmentalists find the necessary means and may governments show leadership in this cause. **Amen. We agree!**

In conclusion, let us recite the *World Mission Sunday* prayer and The Pope's prayer for the Year of Mercy.



World Mission Sunday prayer

God, Merciful Father, your Incarnation has revealed to us your infinite love for the world.

Through the Holy Spirit, we entrust to you our world and every person who seeks meaning in their lives and who needs your love the most.

Through Jesus, grant us the grace of being merciful to our brothers and sisters. May our words, our actions and our prayers allow us to experience your blessed mercy.

May Mary, Mother of the Church, teach us to be signs of mercy for the world.

Merciful Father, grant your mercy to the whole world.

Amen!

Prayer for the Jubilee of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and you have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in human beings; you made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured the Paradise to the penitent thief.

Let us hear the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman as if they were addressed to each one of us: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all through forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord, risen and glorified.

You have wanted that your ministers be also clothed in weakness so that they may feel compassion for those who are in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them, feel sought after, loved and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to the prisoners and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen. (Pope Francis)