

Hour of global prayer 2017

Display the following items: the *Mission Sunday* poster, a globe, or a map of the world and a few candles.

Reading (Luke 4:16–22)

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where



it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the

captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them,

“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.

The following dialogue can be recited between the animator and the crowd or between two people.

BELIEVER Lord, in the synagogue, you said that the Spirit of the Lord was upon you, because he had anointed you to bring the good news to the poor. He sent you to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour (Luke 4:18–19). How can we imitate you in order to become real missionary disciples?

JESUS *Walk among your brothers. Be their companion just as I was, when I was on earth. Dialogue with them as I did with the disciples of Emmaus. In order to give my message of love to humans, I became one among them. In order to transmit the same message of love to other humans, do as I did, become one of them and love!*

BELIEVER Lord, the world in which you are sending us isn’t easy. Those who believe in you suffer persecution; they are deported and often killed. Not all of them are willing to walk on the path with us like Cleopas and his friend did with you.

JESUS *At first, I had to be patient before they recognized me. Patience is the main quality of the missionary disciple. Many others did not listen to me at all and they contributed to my passion. It is through the manifestation of my love despite all I suffered, a love centred on patience and the infinite mercy of God that brought the centurion to realize, ‘Truly this man was God’s Son!’*

BELIEVER Even if I try to imitate you, I’m not certain that I could achieve an apostolic success like yours. Many people preach your message and the world doesn’t seem to become better.

JESUS *Don’t worry too much, about what you call success. Sow my message with words but especially with actions. Be my witness, even sometimes a silent one. A few seeds will fall into good soil and sprout. Trust the Spirit. He fertilizes the soil when you planted the seeds. Your role is to be the Gospel’s visible and audible witness. “Whether you sleep or stay up, the seed will sprout and grow.” Content yourself with loving and praying for all your brothers and sisters of humanity.*

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Let us pray for the people of Europe

Lord, this continent, which has been a Christian land for a very long time, is experiencing many hardships today. Many Asylum seekers are coming to find refuge; they bring an important demographic weight. Unity appears to them as very difficult and we seem to see within them an inner battle between generosity and solidarity, on the one hand, and fear and withdrawal, on the other hand.

R. – Lord, come and sow your love within the hearts of our brothers and sisters.

Let us pray for the people of America

Lord, there is much happening in this continent that is unsettling. Furthermore, difficulties to repair the injustices done to the First Inhabitants still remain. Exploitation of the South by the North is still present as well as pitfalls to develop openness towards others and trust. **R.**

Let us pray for the people of Asia

Lord, Asia, in particular the Middle East, is a place where war is raging. Extremism and fundamentalism have removed relationships based on goodness and solidarity. Only your mercy and your love can bring back peace and life. Grant to all humans involved, the capacity to understand a better way and to act accordingly. **R.**

Let us pray for the people of Africa

Lord, this continent, considered the cradle of humanity, is ravaged by political upheaval, epidemics, and poverty brought about by the greed of its leaders and multinational groups. Many wounds caused by colonialism haven't completely healed. Grant to all Christians of that continent the necessary strength to overcome the evils of the Land. **R.**

Let us pray for the people of Oceania

Lord, this continent is a myriad of islands, large and small. Its peoples have lived here since the beginning of time. Sometimes, there is a lack of racial understanding resulting in political turmoil. Look with love on this continent and renew the people's hope so that your love may flourish at the heart of their faith. **R.**

Final prayer

We can recite the *World Mission Sunday* prayer by using the missionary calendar.

