

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2016

Called to proclaim the mighty acts of God



2016 Service

Introduction to the Liturgy

“Called to proclaim the mighty acts of God” (1 Peter 2:9)

Representatives from different churches may enter carrying a Bible, a lighted candle (which may be a Paschal / Easter candle), and a bowl of salt. These symbols are intended to express visually the mighty acts of God that we are called to proclaim to the world. Both salt and light are images that Jesus uses to describe our Christian identity and mission: you are the salt of the earth... you are the light of the world...

The Bible may be placed on a lectern for the readings, and the salt and candle either near the lectern, as symbols of God’s Word, or near the font, as signs of our baptismal calling. A basket of small candles is set out for use after the homily.

During the Liturgy of the Word, the introduction to the readings uses the expression, “explosion of love”, which comes from Guglielmo Giaquinta, the founder of the Pro Sanctitate movement, which is active in Latvia.

In the Order of Service, these abbreviations are used:

L: Leader
A: All
R: Reader

L: Trinity of love, lead us into your marvellous light.

A: Make all your people holy and one in you.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we are made one with you in baptism and therefore we unite our prayers to yours in the words you taught us.

A: Our Father....

Sharing of the Peace

L: Jesus says:

You are the salt of the earth;

You are the light of the world.

Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Be salt of the earth.

Be light to the world.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A: And with your spirit.

Participants are invited to extinguish their candles.

L: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Closing hymn or other music

Blessing and Dismissal

L: Blest be the poor in spirit.

Blest be those who mourn.

Blest be the meek.

Blest be the merciful.

Blest be the pure in heart.

Blest be the peace-makers.

Blest be the persecuted.

Blest be you by God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

L: Go in the peace of Christ.

A: Amen.

Homily

Hymn, chant, or other music

A Gesture of Commitment to be Salt and Light

The Leader makes the following invitation to the congregation:

- L: We have listened to the scriptures,
and we have been nourished together
at one table of the Word.
Let us carry this holy Word out into the world with us,
for we are joined in one mission,
to be salt of the earth, to be light to the world,
and to proclaim the mighty acts of God.

As a sign of this mission in which we share, we invite those who wish to come forward and taste a small pinch of salt from the bowl, and to light an individual candle from the principal flame.

Prayers of Hope

- L: As God's children, aware of our identity and mission,
let us raise our prayers and affirm our desire
to be a holy people of God.

Silence

- L: Loving God, transform our hearts, our families,
our communities and our society.

A: Make all your people holy and one in you.

- L: Water of life, quench the thirst that exists in our society,
the thirst for dignity, for love,
for communion and holiness.

A: Make all your people holy and one in you.

- L: Holy Spirit, Spirit of joy and peace, heal the divisions caused
by our misuse of power and money, and reconcile us across
different cultures and languages. Unite us as God's children.

A: Make all your people holy and one in you.

Gathering

Processional hymn

Those leading the celebration enter carrying a Bible, light and salt.

Words of welcome

- L: Dear friends in Christ, as we gather together
in this service of prayer for unity,
we thank God for our Christian identity and vocation,
described in the words of Saint Peter:
*"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts
of him who called you out of darkness
into his marvellous light".*
We pray this year with the Christians of Latvia,
who have prepared this service in the hope
that we may grow in our communion
with our Lord Jesus Christ
and with all our brothers and sisters aspiring to unity.

Prayers for the Holy Spirit

- L: Holy Spirit, gift of the Father through his Son Jesus Christ,
dwell in us all, open our hearts and help us to listen to your voice.
- A: Holy Spirit, come upon us.**
- L: Holy Spirit, Divine Love, source of unity and holiness,
show us the love of God.
- A: Holy Spirit, come upon us.**
- L: Holy Spirit, Fire of Love, purify us, removing all the divisions
in our hearts, in our communities and in the world,
and so make us one in Jesus' name.
- A: Holy Spirit, come upon us.**

L: Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith in Jesus, truly divine and truly human, who carried our sins of division to the Cross and brought us to communion in his Resurrection.

A: Holy Spirit, come upon us.

L: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, dwell in us so that we may become a communion of love and holiness. Make us one in you, who live and reign for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

Song of praise or other music

Prayers of Reconciliation

L: God invites us to reconciliation and holiness. Let us turn our minds, hearts, and bodies to receive the grace of reconciliation on the way to holiness.

Silence

L: Lord, you created us in your own image. Forgive us when we do not respect that image and the world that you gave us.

Kyrie eleison.¹

A: Kyrie eleison.

L: Jesus, you invite us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. Forgive us when we fail to be holy, to be people of integrity, and to respect human rights and dignity. *Christe eleison.*

A: Christe eleison.

L: Lord of life, of peace, and of justice, forgive us when we transmit the culture of death, of war, and of injustice, and fail to build a civilization of love. *Kyrie eleison.*

A: Kyrie eleison.

L: Merciful God, fill us with your grace and holiness. Make us apostles of love wherever we go. This we pray through Christ, our Lord.

A: Amen.

¹ Congregations may wish to replace “Kyrie/Christe eleison” with “Lord/Christ have mercy”, or other English-language response.

Proclamation of the Word of God

R: The Word of God is an explosion of love in our lives.
Listen and you will live.

A: Thanks be to God.

ISAIAH 55:1-3

R: Listen and you will live.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

R: I will bless your name for ever and ever.

A: I will bless your name for ever and ever.

R: The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

A: I will bless your name for ever and ever.

R: The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

A: I will bless your name for ever and ever.

R: The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

A: I will bless your name for ever and ever.

1 PETER 2:9-10

R: Listen and you will live.

A: Thanks be to God.

MATTHEW 5:1-16

R: Listen and you will live.

A: Thanks be to God.