

# MCA Prayer Activity All Ages



## Share the Journey: Prayer Service in Solidarity with Dreamers and Migrants\*

**Goal:** To help students to think about and pray for people who are seeking a better life in a different place. To allow children to better understand the life experiences of people of another culture or race. To teach children to pray a Psalm in “call and response” form

**Materials Needed:** This prayer service, printed for individuals or projected on a smart board. Set an altar with a crucifix, a bible, and a globe to represent the missions. Students may also wear the colors of the World Mission Rosary

**Leader:** O Lord, you are the creator of all, and so no one is a stranger to you. Look with compassion on those who are refugees, exiles, immigrants – those who find themselves in a new land and among a different people. Grant your compassion also to those young people brought to this country as children. Grant them a home and a place, and give us a kind heart in welcoming them. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **All: Amen**

**Reader 1:** A Reading from the Book of Leviticus  
When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the LORD, am your God. The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Pause for silent reflection

### Psalm

**All: Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they will be satisfied.**

**Side 1:** Praise the LORD, my soul;  
I will praise the LORD all my life,  
sing praise to my God while I live.

**Side 2:** Put no trust in princes,  
in children of Adam powerless to save.  
Who breathing his last, returns to the earth;  
that day all his planning comes to nothing.

**Side 1:** Blessed the one whose help is the God of  
Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord, his God,  
The maker of heaven and earth,  
the seas and all that is in them,

**Side 2:** Who keeps faith forever,  
secures justice for the oppressed,  
who gives bread to the hungry.  
The LORD sets prisoners free;

**Side 1:** the LORD gives sight to the blind.  
The LORD raises up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.

**Side 2:** The LORD protects the resident alien,  
comes to the aid of the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the way of the wicked.  
The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, Zion, through all generations!

**All: Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they will be satisfied.**

### Gospel Reading

**Reader 2:** A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew

Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Pause for silent reflection.

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### Prayers of Petition

**Leader:** At this time, bring to mind the names of dreamers, migrants, refugees and exiles that you wish to pray for.

Pause for silent reflection

**Reader 1:** Our response to each prayer is: Hear us, O God. Hear our families of mixed status. Hear those who wait in fear of separation, burdened with anxiety.

**All: Hear us, O God.**

**Reader 2:** Hear all who are called "foreigner." Hear us when we experience cold stares or mistrust because of the color of our skin or the language we speak.

**All: Hear us, O God.**

**Reader 1:** Hear our brothers and sisters who sweat in the fields. Hear those who work long, backbreaking hours growing food, serving us at restaurants, and cleaning our homes.

**All: Hear us, O God.**

**Reader 2:** Hear those young people who were brought to this country as children. Hear their dreams for a future of hope.

**All: Hear us, O God.**

**Reader 1:** Hear vulnerable women and children. Hear those who have fled domestic violence, rape, or gangs to seek safety in this country.

**All: Hear us, O God.**

**Reader:** Hear those who work in the shadows and are exposed to exploitation and harassment. Hear those for whom just pay for a just day's work is always uncertain.

**All: Hear us, O God.**

**Reader:** Hear your people as we seek laws and policies to protect the vulnerable and welcome the stranger.

**All: Hear us, O God.**

**Leader:** Gathering our prayers, let us offer the prayer Christ himself taught us:

**Our Father, Who art in Heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**Amen.**

### Closing Prayer

**Leader:** O Lord, through your grace, may we imitate your love and show true compassion by welcoming the immigrant and the refugee. Inspired by the teaching of your Son, may we greet each stranger as neighbor, and may we live in the peace that comes from your love. Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

### Closing song: Christ Be Our Light (Farrell)

(Sing along here: <https://youtu.be/B63zLFQmp3U?si=-3eJTIS7unIC8pGm>)

### Share a final thought from the Holy Father:

*"We come from distant lands; we have different traditions, skin color, languages and social backgrounds; we think differently and we celebrate our faith in a variety of rites. None of this makes us enemies; instead, it is one of our greatest riches."*

— Pope Francis

\*Prayer Service credit:

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/share-journey-prayer-service-solidarity-dreamers-and-migrants>