

## **ALM MISSIONARY PRAYER 12 NOVEMBER 2023 ENGLISH VERSION**

**GUIDE:** Lord, we are here before you, travelers in this world of ours full of beauty, but troubled by wars, violence, injustices. We associates, volunteers and friends also experience the fatigue of going and need to let you meet us every day. Together with us, we present to you all our pilgrim brothers and sisters, sometimes hopeless and aimless.

Unknown but loved face, You approach us and welcome our uncertainties, our disappointments, our desires; you illuminate our path, our efforts, our path, with the light and warmth of Your Word and Your love.

Walk with us again Lord and break for us the bread of life, of your Body, of your desire to be with us today and always.

**GUIDE:** In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit **ALL:** Amen!

### **PRAYER:**

To all seekers of your face,

show yourself, Lord;

to all the pilgrims of the absolute,

come meet me, Lord;

with those who set out on a journey and don't know where to go

walk, Lord;

join us and walk with all the desperate on the streets of Emmaus;

and don't be offended if they don't know that it's you who's going with them,

you who make them restless and set their hearts on fire;

they don't know that they carry you inside:

stop with them as it is getting dark (Davide Maria Turoldo)

### **From the Gospel according to Luke**

And behold, that same day two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, about eleven kilometers from Jerusalem, and they were talking to each other about everything that had happened.

While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself approached and walked with them. He said to them: «Fools and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have said! Wasn't it necessary for Christ to suffer these sufferings to enter into his glory?». And, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them in all the Scriptures what pertained to him. When they neared the village where they were headed, he acted as if he were going further away. But they insisted: "Stay with us, because it is evening and the day is now at its end." He entered to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took the bread, recited the blessing, broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. But he disappeared from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked with us along the way, when he explained the Scriptures to us? But their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are these conversations that you are having among yourselves along the way?" They stopped, with sad faces; one of them, named Cleopas, replied to him: «We hoped that he was the one who would liberate Israel; with all that, it's been three days since these things happened. But some of our women shocked us; they went to the tomb in the morning and, not having found his body, they came to tell us that they had also had a vision of angels, who affirm that he is alive. Some of our men went to the tomb and found it as the women had said, but they did not see him."

They left without delay and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the others who were with them gathered together, saying: "Truly the Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon!". And they told what had happened along the way and how they had recognized him in the breaking of the bread.

## **From the Pope's Message GMM 2023**

As at the beginning of the disciples' vocation, even now in the moment of their confusion, the Lord takes the initiative to approach his disciples and walk alongside them. Today, as then, the risen Lord is close to his missionary disciples and walks alongside them, especially when they feel lost, discouraged, afraid in the face of the mystery of iniquity that surrounds them and wants to suffocate them. Therefore, "let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of hope!" (Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*, 86). The Lord is greater than our problems, especially when we encounter them in announcing the Gospel to the world, because this mission, after all, is his and we are simply his humble collaborators, "useless servants" (see Luke 17, 10). Let us therefore always be around the table, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him when He broke the bread. The decisive element that opens the eyes of the disciples is the sequence of actions carried out by Jesus: taking the bread, blessing it, breaking it and giving it to them. But just at the moment in which they recognize Jesus in He-who-breaks-the-bread, "he disappeared from their sight" (Lk 24,31). This fact makes us understand an essential reality of our faith: Christ who breaks the bread now becomes the broken bread, shared with the disciples and therefore consumed by them. He has become invisible, because he has now entered the hearts of the disciples to make them burn even more, pushing them to resume the journey without delay to communicate to everyone the unique experience of the encounter with the Risen One! be accompanied by the risen Lord who explains the meaning of the Scriptures to us.

This haste, to share with others the joy of meeting the Lord, shows that "the joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and entire lives of those who encounter Jesus. One cannot truly encounter the risen Jesus without being inflamed by the desire to tell everyone. Therefore, the first and main resource of the mission are those who have recognized the risen Christ, in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, and who carry his fire in their hearts and his light in their gaze. They can testify to the life that never dies, even in the most difficult situations and in the darkest moments. The image of the "walking feet" reminds us once again of the perennial validity of the *missio ad gentes*, the mission given to the Church by the risen Lord to evangelize every person and every people to the ends of the earth. Today more than ever, humanity, wounded by so many injustices, divisions and wars, needs the Good News of peace and salvation in Christ.

## **Concluding prayer (together) THE PRAYER FOR THE ALM FAMILY**

Lord Jesus today we want to pray to you for the whole ALM family,  
On the road you met us, women and men on the road.

Fixing our gaze on yours, listening to your Word, recognizing you at the breaking of the Bread.

It's the gift you give new every day. Make us capable of welcoming him Lord.

Our hearts burn with the desire to announce you and serve you in our brothers and sisters.

Make us "sons and daughters with eyes open" to the pain of the world, to those who are poor and oppressed, to innocent and unjust suffering.

Grant us your peace, show us the ways of peace, so that we can always announce it, desire it and achieve it;

Keep us healthy, united in You, Lord of the Mission;

Let our feet move quickly, like those of Mary your Mother, and the encounter with each other be a mutual leap of joy for your Presence. And we can bring you, Bread broken for the life of the world.

And we can be Bread broken for the life of the world. Amen

## **Our father**

**Guide:** Let us therefore set off again, enlightened by the encounter with the Risen One and animated by his Spirit. Let us set out again with burning hearts, open eyes, feet on the move, to make other hearts burn with the Word of God, open other eyes to Jesus the Eucharist, and invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation that God in Christ has given to all 'humanity. Holy Mary of the Way, Mother of missionary disciples, of Christ and Queen of missions, pray for us! (Message for WYD 2023)