

# Holy Childhood Association / Lenten Prayer Service

## REFLECTION

**Do you know why Holy Thursday is sometimes called “Maundy Thursday”?** The word “maundy” comes from the Latin word “mandatum,” which means commandment. Near the end of the Last Supper, after Judas had departed, Christ said to His disciples, “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (John 13:34). As you continue your Lenten journey, ask yourself, *“What does that commandment mean to me and my call to be a missionary?”*

**Leader / Presider:** As we gather together in prayer, let us call to mind children in the Missions who suffer from poverty, neglect, violence or hunger, and ask God’s special blessing upon them. May we always respond with joy to Your Good News, Lord, live by Your example, and love others as You love us. Amen.

**Reading: Colossians 3:12-14**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51:1, 10, 12, 15

**All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

You are kind, God!

Please have pity on me.

You are always merciful!

Please wipe away my sins.

Create pure thoughts in me

and make me faithful again.

**All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Make me as happy as you did

when you saved me.

Make me want to obey!

Help me to speak,

and I will joyfully praise you, Lord.

**All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**Leader / Presider:** Lord Jesus, You stretched out Your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross so that everyone could be saved. Send us Your Spirit so that we may reach out our arms in love to bring the Good News of You and Your salvation to children everywhere.

**All: Amen.**

