



We Are Thankful For Our School Year

Set an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, candles (unlit), a globe to represent the missions and a World Mission Rosary which can be obtained from the Missionary Childhood Office.

Reader 1: As we listen to God's word today, let's be mindful of His message, asking ourselves, "Have I been faithful in all my works?"

Reader 2: A Reading from the Book of James
(James 3:14-17)

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day and one of you says to them "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks Be to God.

Reader 1: In our world, there are many places where children do not enjoy the blessings we may take for granted. They do not have decent food, access to clean water, a safe place to live, or a school to attend. Many are forced to work so that their families can survive from day to day. We are thankful to God for all the gifts He gives us, most especially for the opportunity to learn and grow in faith at school. We are also grateful, as members of the Missionary Childhood Association, for our ability to help those who go without life's necessities. To these children, we ask Jesus to continue to send our works, in the form of our prayer and sacrifices, through the Missionary Childhood Association.

Reader 2: Our response is:

By my faith and works, send me, Jesus.

Reader 1: For the children of **Ecuador**, some of

whom cannot go to school and must work shining peoples' shoes so that their families have enough money to eat every day, we pray:

All: By my faith and works, send me, Jesus.

Reader 2: For the children of **South Sudan**, some of whom lose their chance for education because they have been kidnapped from their families and forced to fight as child soldiers, we pray:

All: By my faith and works, send me, Jesus.

Reader 1: For the children of **Pakistan**, some of whom will never learn to read or write simply because they are girls, not boys, we pray:

All: By my faith and works, send me, Jesus.

Reader 2: For the children of **The Solomon Islands**, some of whom do not attend school because there is no money to pay teachers, we pray:

All: By my faith and works, send me, Jesus.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you have given us many gifts, asking only that we share them with those who have less than we do. Help us to remember that our ability to think and learn is a blessing from You. We thank You for all we've learned this school year, ever mindful that there are many children in Your world who may never be who You want them to be simply because they will never go to school. We ask for your blessing on us, our teachers, and children and teachers around the world.

Closing Song:

Here I Am, Lord. © Dan Shutte

Lyrics/music to display on smart boards can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2IiBOmF>