

Jubilee Year of Mercy
Be Merciful as your Father is Merciful
Advent

Words of Welcome

Pope Francis tells us, “We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy.

It is a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace.

Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the most Holy Trinity.

Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us.

Mercy: the fundamental law that swells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life.

Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.” (*Misericordiae Vultus* 2)

Let us join in prayer as we celebrate the merciful forgiveness of our God.

Suggestions for Entrance Hymn:

- *Praise to You, O Christ Our Savior*
- *Confitemini Domino/ Come and Fill Our Hearts*
- *Waiting in Silence (My Soul in Stillness Waits*
- *Marantha*
- *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
- *Advent Litany*
- *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*
- *Christ Circle Round Us*
- *Emmanuel*
- *Creator Alme Siderum/Creator of the Stars of Night*

Greeting:

Presider: Grace, mercy and peace be with you
from God the Father
and Christ Jesus our Savior.

R: And with your spirit

Opening Prayer

Brothers and sisters, God calls us in his mercy;
let us therefore ask him for the grace of sincere repentance.

Lord, hear the prayers of those who call on you,
forgive the sins of these who confess to you,
and in your merciful love
give us your pardon and your peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

55:6-9

*Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts, let him turn to the Lord for mercy,
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.*

Responsorial Psalm

- *Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful*
- *Psalm 25: To You O Lord Psalm 80: Lord Make Us Turn to You.*
- *Psalm 123: Our Eyes are fixed on the Lord*

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

5: 17-21

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ

Alleluia:

- *Litany of the Word* (Bernadette Farrell OCP)
- *Alleluia! Hurry the Lord is Near*—verse 1 (Ernest Sands OCP)
- Seasonal Alleluia used for Sundays in the parish

Gospel Reading: John 8: 31-36

If you remain in my word, you will be my disciple.

A short homily on the mercy of God may be given

Examination of Conscience

(Kneel)

Presider: Let us listen to the words of Pope Francis as he calls us to reflect on God's mercy in our lives and reflect on how we have failed to allow that mercy to permeate our being.

Reader 1:

God's mercy breaks through the dimension of space and time, inserting everything into the eternal mystery of love. It is as if to say that not only in history, but for all eternity, we will always be under the merciful gaze of the Father. *(Misericordiae Vultus 7)*

Reader 2:

- Have I avoided the mercy of God, neglecting prayer and worship? *(pause)*
- Have I listened for God's voice, looking for signs of God's merciful love and action in the persons and circumstances around me? *(pause)*
- Have I trusted in the mercy of God, or have I left my own unworthiness stand in the way of hope?

(short period of silence)

Reader 1:

With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze, we experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity. The mission Jesus received from the Father was that of revealing the mystery of divine love in its fullness. "God is love." *(Misericordiae Vultus 8)*

Reader 2:

- Is my image of God in harmony with the way Jesus describes God? *(pause)*
- Am I open to the mercy of God in my life? *(pause)*

- Am I willing to let go of all my preconceived notions of God and let God transform my mind and heart?

(short period of silence)

Reader 1

When faced with sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and now one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. *(Misericordiae Vultus 3)*

Reader 2:

- What stands in the way of my responding fully to the mercy of God in my life? *(pause)*
- What circumstances in my life are most difficult for me now? Can I let God's mercy into these places? *(pause)*
- Am I allowing God's merciful love to reach out to others through me?

Presider: Let us reflect on the areas in our own lives in need of forgiveness so that we can bring them to God's sacrament of mercy. *(longer pause)*

Act of Repentance

Presider: Ever trusting in the mercy of God, let us pray together our act of repentance:

I confess to almighty God and to you,
my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Individual Confessions

(Appropriate Instrumental Music)

Our Father

Stand

Presider: Let us now call upon our Father in the words that Jesus gave us and ask him to forgive us our sins:

Our Father . . .

Concluding Prayer

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ
your loving forgiveness knows no limits.
You took our human nature
to give us an example of humility
and to make us faithful in every trial.
May we never lose the gifts you have given us,
but keep us mindful of your mercy.
for you live and reign forever and ever.

Closing Hymn:

- *Come Lord Jesus*
- *The Whole Word Is Waiting For Love*
- *Magnificat*
- *My Soul Rejoices*
- *Wait for the Lord*