

Jubilee Year of Mercy
Our Call to be the Mercy of God to Others
Lent

Words of Welcome:

Pope Francis reminds us that:

The Church's first truth is the love of Christ.

The Church makes herself a servant of this love

and mediates it to all people--

a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of oneself.

Consequently wherever the Church is present,

the mercy of the Father must be evident.

In our parish, communities, associations, and movements,

in a word, wherever we are, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.

Misericordiae Vultus 12

Let us join in prayer as we reflect on how our lives have mirrored the mercy of God.

Entrance Hymn:

- *Loving and Forgiving*
- *Seek the Lord, Whose Mercy Abounds*
- *Praise to You, O Christ Our Savior*
- *Ashes*
- *You Alone*
- *I Heard the Voice of Jesus*
- *Open My Eyes*

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. (Pause)

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 Ezekiel

36: 23-28

I will sprinkle clean water upon you and place a new spirit within you and make you live by my statutes.

Responsorial Psalm

- *Psalm 130: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption*
- *Psalm 51: Be Merciful O Lord (various settings) or Create in Me (various settings)*
- *Psalm 123: Our Eyes are Fixed on the Lord (various settings)*
- *Psalm 139: O God You Search Me*

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 12: 9-18

Let your love be sincere.

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 31-46

Whatever you did to one of these least of mine, you did to me.

Because the Examination of conscience is long, (including reflections on both the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, if it is used in its entirety) a regular homily may not be needed.

Examination of Conscience

Presider:

Pope Francis shares with us:

“It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee,
the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
It will be a way to reawaken our conscience,
too often grown dull in the face of poverty.
And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel
where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy.
Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching
so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples...
they will be the criteria upon which we will be judged.” *Misericordiae Vultus* 15

Reader 1: Jesus tells us to feed the hungry and to give drink to the thirsty . .

Reader 2:

- Am I so caught in my own felt needs or addictions that I neglect the needs of others...in my family and those close to me?
- Do I overeat or indulge in drink and abuse these gifts from God?
- Do I respect the EARTH, the source of our food and water, or do I waste and pollute her resources?
- Do I realize that as a follower of Jesus I am responsible for the needs of the poor?
- Am I generous to the poor, to those who are in need of food and water?

Sung response:

Cantor: Kyrie, éléison
Christe, éléison
Kyrie, éléison

Congregation: Kyrie, éléison
Christe, éléison
Kyrie, éléison

Reader 1: Jesus calls us to clothe the naked and shelter the homeless.

Reader 2:

- Am I caught up in consumerism, constantly needing to possess the latest and the newest?
- Do I share my excess with those who are in need?
- Do I give of my time to help those who are homeless – in the local shelters or in food pantries?
- Have I welcomed those seeking a new life in our country? Do I speak up or vote in favor of fair and just immigration policies?

Sung response:

Cantor: Kyrie, éléison
Christe, éléison
Kyrie, éléison

Congregation: Kyrie, éléison
Christe, éléison
Kyrie, éléison

Reader 1: Jesus invites us to visit those who are sick and imprisoned.

Reader 2:

- How faithful am I to visiting the sick and those who are elderly in my own family?
- How do I help shut-ins and those in my own neighborhood who are in need of assistance?
- Do I use my political voice to advocate for the humane treatment of prisoners and the abolishment of capital punishment?

Sung response:

*Cantor: Kyrie, eléison
Christe, eléison
Kyrie, eléison*

*Congregation: Kyrie, eléison
Christe, eléison
Kyrie, eléison*

Reader 1: Jesus charges us to bury the dead, to pray for the living and the dead and to comfort the sorrowful.

Reader 2:

- How do I honor those among my family and friends who have died?
- Do I pray for and listen to those who are sorrowing and in pain?
- Do I pray for my family, my friends and my enemies?

Sung response:

*Cantor: Kyrie, eléison
Christe, eléison
Kyrie, eléison*

*Congregation: Kyrie, eléison
Christe, eléison
Kyrie, eléison*

Reader 1: Jesus summons us to admonish the sinner, instruct the ignorant and counsel the doubtful.

Reader 2:

- Do I stand up for what I know is right and just even when those around me do not?

- Does the way I live my life proclaim to those around me that I am a follower of Jesus?
- Am I willing to help others learn about Jesus?

<i>Sung response:</i>	<i>Cantor: Kyrie, eléison</i>	<i>Congregation: Kyrie, eléison</i>
	<i>Christe, eléison</i>	<i>Christe, eléison</i>
	<i>Kyrie, eléison</i>	<i>Kyrie, eléison</i>

Reader 1: Jesus bids us to bear wrongs patiently and to forgive others.

Reader 2:

- Do I harbor resentment and a sense of self-justification?
- Am I willing to forgive, or at least pray for the grace of forgiveness?
- Does my life reflect the gentle patience of God to others?
- Does God's mercy show through my life and my actions?

<i>Sung response:</i>	<i>Cantor: Kyrie, eléison</i>	<i>Congregation: Kyrie, eléison</i>
	<i>Christe, eléison</i>	<i>Christe, eléison</i>
	<i>Kyrie, eléison</i>	<i>Kyrie, eléison</i>

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

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 Blessing

Presider: May the God of peace
fill your hearts with every blessing.
May he sustain you
with his gifts of hope and consolation,
help you to offer your lives in his service,
and bring you safely to eternal glory.
May almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
grant you all that is good.

Closing Hymn:

- *Now is the Acceptable Time (Barbara Bridge OCP)*
- Any version of the *Magnificat*
- *You Are the Voice*
- *Amazing Grace*
- *Transfigure Us, O Lord (Hurd)*