

Mercy: the Spirit of God -- March, 2016

Introduction: As this Year of Mercy continues, let us reflect again on this important virtue.

Call to Prayer: “At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of [God’s] action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy* as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger ... In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid and love. May [we] never tire of extending mercy and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church ... repeat confidently without end: ‘Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they are from of old.’” (Psalm 25: 6) *Misericordiae Vultus*, Bull of Indiction, Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis, 4/11/15, #3, #5, #25 http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html

Leader: O God, come to our assistance.

ALL: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

ALL: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Hymn: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” verses 1, 2

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy Like the wide-ness
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures
3. Trou-bled souls, why will you scat - ter Like a crowd of
1. of the sea; There's a kind-ness in his jus - tice
2. of our mind, And the heart of the E - ter - nal
3. fright - ened sheep? Fool - ish hearts, why will you wan - der
1. Which is more than lib - er - ty. There is plen - ti - ful re -
2. Is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more
3. From a love so true and deep? There is wel - come for the
1. demp-tion In the blood that has been shed; There is
2. sim - ple We should take him at his word, And our
3. sin - ner And more grac - es for the good; There is
1. joy for all the mem-bers In the sor - rows of the Head.
2. lives would be thanks - giv - ing For the good-ness of our Lord.
3. mer - cy with the Sav - ior, There is heal - ing in his blood.

Text: 87 87 D; Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

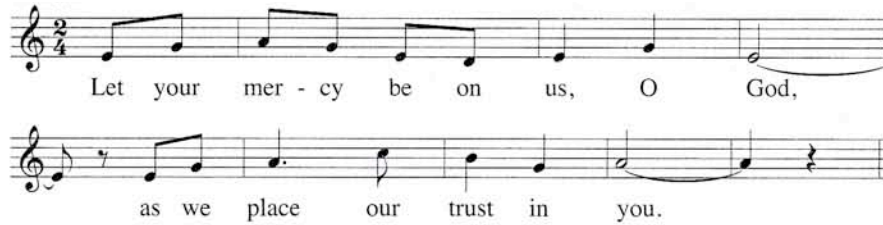
Music: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradanseu*, ca. 1710.



Reading: “Let us be renewed by God’s mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives. Let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can ... make justice and peace flourish.”

(Pope Francis, Easter Sunday homily 2013)

Antiphon:



Text: Psalm 33:1, 4-5, 12, 18-19, 20, 22; Marty Haugen, © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. - refrain trans © 1969 ICFI
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Psalm 52: 10-11 (Alternate the verses, please.)

- I. I, like a green olive tree in the house of God, trust in the mercy of God forever and ever.
- II. I thank you always for what you have done and proclaim the goodness of your name before your faithful ones.

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

(Sing/recite antiphon above again.)

Reading: "... we have to stir our hearts to pity, make them sensitive to the sufferings and miseries of our neighbor and ask God to give us the true spirit of mercy which is the characteristic spirit of God ... Let's ask God to give us this spirit of compassion and mercy, to fill us with it ... Let's reflect a little on how much we need mercy since we have to practice it toward others ... "

Coste, Vincent de Paul Conferences, XI: 152, *The Spirit of Mercy and Compassion* August 6, 1656 pages 308

Reflection and Sharing: Let us pause, reflect, share.

Mercy has been defined as God's love meeting human misery.

When have I known God's mercy? When have I shared God's mercy with another?

Prayer: "Have mercy on me, O God, for I cry to you all the day long. Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O God, I lift up my soul. You are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call on you." I ask, dear God, that you to help me live with my own brokenness and have the mercy to forgive and support those with whom I live or work who also bear the burden of their own brokenness. Lay your healing hand on us and unite us in a bond of mutual charity. For "you are great and do wondrous deeds; you alone are God. I give thanks to you, O God, my God, with all my heart and glorify your name forever." All glory to you God, Father, Son and Spirit. Amen. (Psalm 86: 3, 4, 5, 10, 12)

Blessing: (Please, respond **Amen** to each request.)

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May God turn toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6: 24-26

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Prayer Texts:

Psalm 51: 1 "Have mercy on me, O God ..."

Ephesians 2:4 "God is rich in mercy because of his great love for us."