

Holy Hour of Prayer for the **YEAR OF MERCY**

[If priest or deacon opening Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, sing "O Saving Victim/ O Salutaris"
or, if Sacrament already exposed or not to be exposed sing gathering hymn]

(Stand) **Hymn:** (appropriate opening hymn)

Leader: O God, + come to my assistance.

All: O Lord, make haste to help me.

Leader: Let us pray to the Father of Mercy.

All: O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech You, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever virgin, St. Joseph, her spouse, St. Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for Your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.
Amen

(Be Seated) **Reading 1** Nehemiah 9: 9-13

Silent Reflection (about 10 minutes)

Leader: Let us pray together from Psalm 107
(alternating right and left sides and all)

(All) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
His mercy endures forever.

(R) Some had lost their way in a barren desert;
found no path toward a city to live in.
They were hungry and thirsty;
their life was ebbing away.

(All) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
His mercy endures forever.

(L) Some lived in darkness and gloom,
imprisoned in misery and chains.
He humbled their hearts through hardship;
they stumbled with no one to help

(All) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
His mercy endures forever.

(R) Some fell sick from their wicked ways,
afflicted because of their sins.
They loathed all manner of food:
they were at the gates of death.

(All) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
His Mercy endures forever

(L) Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
such wondrous deeds for the children of Adam.
Let them offer a sacrifice of thanks,
recount the works with shouts of joy.

(All) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
His Mercy endures forever.

(Kneel) **Silent Meditation and Adoration** (about 15 minutes)

(Be Seated) **Reading 2** Romans 2:3-8

Silent Reflection (about 15 minutes)

(Stand) **Gospel Acclamation** (Sung or omitted)
Alleluia. Be merciful just as your Father is merciful. Alleluia

(Stand) **Gospel Reading** Mt 25: 31- 40

(Seated) **Silent Meditation** (about 10 minutes)

Closing Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ,

All: you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father
you have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Leader: Show us your face and we will be saved.

All: Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew
from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene
from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Leader: Let us hear,

All: as if addressed to each one of us,
the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
“If you knew the gift of God!”

Leader: You are the visible face of the invisible Father,

All: of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy;
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

Leader: You willed that the ministers would also be clothed in weakness

All in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error;
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after,
loved and forgiven by God.

Leader: Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with His anointing.

All: so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,
may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to the captives and oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

All: We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: (appropriate closing hymn)

or

[If priest or deacon closing Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Kneel) Hymn: "Tantum Ergo/ Down in Adoration Falling" Prayer, Blessing, Divine Praises]

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Recommended for use by Most Rev. Andrew Cozzens, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of
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and Episcopal Advisor to the USA Council of Serra International, February, 2016

For individual meditation:

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- + Feed the Hungry
- + Give Drink to the Thirsty
- + Clothe the Naked
- + Shelter the Homeless
- + Visit the Sick
- + Visit the Imprisoned
- + Bury the Dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- + Admonish the Sinner
- + Instruct the Ignorant
- + Counsel the Doubtful
- + Bear Wrongs Patiently
- + Forgive Offenses Willingly
- + Comfort the Afflicted
- + Pray for the Dead