# YEAR OF MERCY LITURGY

## INTRODUCTION

This year Pope Francis has called the Church to a special Jubilee Year of Mercy. "Mercy", the Pope says, "is the name of our God". The God who asks us not to judge and condemn but to forgive and to love, and to do this over and over again. This is the challenge that we are being called to every day. In our thoughts, by what we say and by our actions. We are called to love and be compassionate. We are called to be caring and considerate. We are called to be merciful, just as our Father is merciful. Let us begin our liturgy by keeping this in mind and thinking about those people in our lives who are loving toward us.

## SONG/MUSIC

(local choice or use a video clip from the resource suggestions)

## OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father.
Your love and compassion is enduring. You call us to show this love and forgiveness to all whom we meet. Through Jesus, our Saviour, you have shown how we are to do this. By loving our neighbour and treating all with kindness. We pray today that your abundant love be ever present in our lives.
We ask this in your Holy name. Amen.

## FIRST READING WHAT GOD REQUIRES (MICAH 6:6-8)

**READER:** A reading from the Prophet Micah.

"With what shall I come before the Lord,
    and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
    with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
    with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
    the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
    and what does the Lord require of you?
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
    and to walk humbly with your God.

The word of the Lord.

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

MERCY
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## RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 92

**RESPONSE:** It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name;
to declare your merciful love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night. (R)

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.
How great are your works, O Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep. (R)

The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like the cedar in Lebanon.
They are planted in the house of the Lord,
they flourish in the courts of our God. (R)

## ALLELUIA VERSE MATT 5:7

Alleluia, Alleluia.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Alleluia.

## GOSPEL THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN (LUKE 10:25-37)

**LEADER:** A reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke.

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.
"Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"
He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself."
And Jesus said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."
But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"
Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

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But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

# HOMILY/REFLECTION

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**LEADER:**  Holy God, look upon us with love, mercy and compassion; hear the prayers that we bring before you, those prayers we say out loud and those in our hearts.

**READER:** We pray for our Church, that we be a true expression of faith and mercy responding to the needs of others. *(pause)*
Through your Mercy O Lord, ………    (R) hear our prayer.

**READER:**  We pray for those who are leaders in our world, that they work for peace and justice in trying to make the world a better place. *(pause)*
Through your Mercy O Lord, ………    (R) hear our prayer.

**READER:**  We pray for people we know who are burdened with worries or sickness.  We pray for our parents, families and friends. *(pause)*
Through your Mercy O Lord, ………    (R) hear our prayer.

**READER:**  We pray together with Mary, Mother of Mercy, our model of love and compassion.

**ALL:** Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

**READER:**  Let us pray in silence for those prayers that are in our hearts.  (pause)
Though your Mercy O Lord,  ………    (R) hear our prayer.

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## PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE/CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like our heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees God.
Show us the loving gaze that freed Zacchaeus
and made Peter weep after his betrayal.
Send your Spirit,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy
may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.
We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.

Pope Francis [abridged version]

## SONG/MUSIC

(local choice or use a video clip from the resource suggestions)



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