

AUGUST CONTEMPLATION

Blood of Christ, price of our salvation, have mercy on us.

Opening Hymn

Eucharistic Exposition

Leader:

May this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament be a precious opportunity to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ has entrusted to his Church.

Silent Reflection

We pray that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord.

Prayer for the Year of Mercy

All:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy. May your church, with renewed enthusiasm, 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, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

(1 John 5: 1-4, 14-15, 20)

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith...

We have courage in God's presence, because we are sure that he hears us if we ask him for anything that is according to his will. He hears us whenever we ask him; and since we know this is true, we know also that he gives us what we ask from him...

We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we know the true God. We live in union with the true God—in union with his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and this is eternal life. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(Psalm 34:14-22)

Response: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord.

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry. **R/**

The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles. **R/**

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD rescues them from them all. **R/**

He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.
Evil brings death to the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned. *R/.*

Glory Be...

Reflection

(Catechism, #1435)

Conversion is accomplished in daily life by gestures of reconciliation, concern for the poor, the exercise and defense of justice and right, by the admission of faults to one's brethren, fraternal correction, revision of life, examination of conscience, spiritual direction, acceptance of suffering, endurance of persecution for the sake of righteousness. Taking up one's cross each day and following Jesus is the surest way of penance. (*Lk 9:23*)

Prayer to be Merciful to Others

St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (Diary, 163)

All: O Lord, I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy and to be Your living reflection. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of Your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart and soul to my neighbor.

And I will lock myself up in the most merciful Heart of Jesus. I will bear my own suffering in silence. May Your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Let us keep silence before God – silent within ourselves – that our hearts and ears may be open.

Gospel

(Matt. 9:20-22)

And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak; for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will get well." But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." At once the woman was made well.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Meditation

John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*, 3

THE MESSIANIC MESSAGE

When Christ Began to Do and to Teach

On the basis of this way of manifesting the presence of God who is Father, love and mercy, Jesus makes mercy one of the principal themes of His preaching. As is His custom, He first teaches "in parables," since these express better the very essence of things. It is sufficient to recall the parable of the prodigal son, (*Luke 15:11-32*) or the parable of the Good Samaritan, (*Luke 10:30-37*) but also—by contrast—the parable of the merciless servant. (*Matt. 18:23-25*) There are many passages in the teaching of Christ that manifest love-mercy under some ever-fresh aspect. We need only consider the Good Shepherd who goes in search of the lost sheep, (*Luke 15:3-7*) or the woman who sweeps the house in search of the lost coin. (*Luke 15:8-10*) The Gospel writer who particularly treats of these themes in Christ's teaching is Luke, whose Gospel has earned the title of "the Gospel of mercy."

...Christ, in revealing the love-mercy of God, at the same time demanded from people that they also should be guided in their lives by love and mercy. This requirement forms part of the very essence of the messianic message, and constitutes the heart of the Gospel ethos. The Teacher expresses this both through the medium of

the commandment which He describes as “the greatest,” (*Matt. 22:38*) and also in the form of a blessing, when in the Sermon on the Mount He proclaims: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” (*Matt. 5:7*)

Intentions

Leader:

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intentions of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

All:

Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today’s actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially:

For the Holy Father’s **Universal Intention:** That sports may be an opportunity for friendly encounters between peoples and may contribute to peace in the world, we pray. *R/.*

For the Holy Father’s **Intention for Evangelization:** That Christians may live the Gospel, giving witness to faith, honesty, and love of neighbor, we pray. *R/.*

That our country more fully embrace the culture of life, recognizing in each person the image of God Himself, we pray. *R/.*

Lord, You have promised to be with your Church always. May the Holy Spirit inspire many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we pray. *R/.*

That we may do acts of mercy with cheerfulness, we pray. *R/.*

For all those taking vacations, that they may find rest and travel safely, we pray. *R/.*

For those who’ve asked the help of our prayers, for those who have no one to pray for them, and for the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray. *R/.*

Our Father...

Silent Reflection

Closing Prayer

All:

Eternal God, in Whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen.

Benediction and Reposition

Closing Hymn