

# SEPTEMBER CONTEMPLATION

*Blood of Christ of the New and Eternal Covenant, 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:

*(Mark 10: 25-31)*

Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" The disciples were astounded. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God."

Then Peter began to speak up. "We've given up everything to follow you," he said. "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## Responsorial Psalm

*(Psalm 90:12-13,14-15,16-17)*

17)

*Response: Give us, O God, wisdom of heart.*

Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Turn, O LORD! How long?

Have compassion on your servants! *R/.*

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen evil. *R/.*

Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands –

O prosper the work of our hands! *R/.*

**Glory Be...**

## **Reflection**

*(Catechism, #1442)*

Christ has willed that in her prayer and life and action his whole Church should be the sign and instrument of the forgiveness and reconciliation that he acquired for us at the price of his blood. But he entrusted the exercise of the power of absolution to the apostolic ministry which he charged with the “ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Cor 5:18) The apostle is sent out “on behalf of Christ” with “God making his appeal” through him and pleading: “Be reconciled to God.” (2 Cor 5:20)

## **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.

You Yourself command me to exercise the three degrees of mercy: the act of mercy, the word of mercy, and prayer. 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 5:3-7)*

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying,

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Meditation**

John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*, 14

### **The Church Seeks to Put Mercy into Practice**

Jesus Christ taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but that he is also called “to practice mercy” towards others: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matt.5:7) The Church sees in these words a call to action, and she tries to practice mercy. All the beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount indicate the way of conversion and of reform of life, but the one referring to those who are merciful is particularly eloquent in this regard. Man attains to the merciful love of God, His mercy, to the extent that he himself is interiorly transformed in the spirit of that love towards his neighbor.

This authentically evangelical process is not just a spiritual transformation realized once and for all: it is a whole lifestyle, an essential and continuous characteristic of the Christian vocation. It consists in the constant discovery and persevering practice of love as a unifying and also elevating power despite all difficulties of a

psychological or social nature: it is a question, in fact, of a merciful love which, by its essence, is a creative love.

## **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 opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people, we pray. *R/.*

For the Holy Father's **Intention for Evangelization:** That catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim, we pray. *R/.*

That the media may become a force to safeguard the common good, to uphold the truth, to protect individual human dignity and promote respect for the needs of the family, 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 Catechists teach and reflect the mercy that is fundamental to the mission of Jesus, 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**