



Mercy Day Prayer

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

*Responsive in faith to God's mercy
Catherine McAuley heeded the call of Jesus
to reach out with courage and love to the
needy of her time.*

—CONSTITUTIONS

Introduction

We, Sisters and associates of Mercy, come together to celebrate yet another Mercy Day in remembrance of the First House of Mercy on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland. Its open doors offered shelter, community and education to women and girls in need. We come together with all the sisters, associates, companions, volunteers, staff, and friends of other Mercy Communities around the world. We celebrate all that has been and all that will be. We have come far by faith and we know we have far to go until we can be the women and men of Mercy that God has called us to be. We thank God that we are companions on the journey.

Opening Song

“The Circle of Mercy” or “Companions on the Journey”

Opening Prayer

O God, we ask your spirit to enlighten us and the Mother of God to walk beside us. United in faith and trust with Catherine, our founder, and with the thousands of sisters and associates who have gone before us, we prayerfully search for ways to enable us to bring mercy to the poor, sick and ignorant. We ask you to show us the ways we can minister to our immigrant sisters and brothers.

Amen.

Reading

EPHESIANS 4:1-6

I urge you to live a life that measures up to the standard God set when God called you. Be always humble, gentle and patient. Show love by being merciful with each other. Do your best to preserve the unity, which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together. There is one body and one spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you. There is one God, one faith, and one baptism. There is one Father of all people, who is God of all, works through, and is in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 146

Antiphon

Responsive in faith to God's mercy Catherine McAuley heeded the call of Jesus to reach out with courage and love to the needy of her time.

—*Constitutions, #1*

SIDE 1

Praise the Lord!
Let all that I am
praise the Lord.
I will praise the Lord
as long as I live.
I will sing praises
to my God
with my dying breath.

SIDE 2

Don't put your confidence
in powerful people;
there is no help for you there.
When they breathe their last,
they return to the earth,
and all their plans die with them.

SIDE 1

But joyful are those who have
the God of Israel as their helper,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

He made heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them.
He keeps every promise forever.
He gives justice to the oppressed
and food to the hungry.

SIDE 2

The Lord frees the prisoners.
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts those
who are weighed down.
The Lord loves the godly.

SIDE 1

The Lord protects
the foreigners among us.
He cares for the orphans and widows,
but he upsets the plans of the wicked.

SIDE 2

The Lord will reign forever.
He will be your God, O Jerusalem,
throughout the generations.
Praise the Lord!

Antiphon

Responsive in faith to God's mercy Catherine
McAuley heeded the call of Jesus to reach out with
courage and love to the needy of her time.

—*Constitutions, #1*

Reading

In a world yearning for the touch of mercy, Catherine's example may be both encouraging and empowering. She had no great design, only a desire to make some lasting effort for God's poor. This yearning engendered a response that was practical and immediate, warm and cordial, enabling and respectful. Through this personal and simple approach, she invites us to walk in the paths of mercy; the principal path marked out to those who wish to follow Jesus.

—*Praying with Catherine McAuley, by Helen Marie Burns, RSM, and Sheila Carney, RSM*

Quiet Reflection

As another Mercy Day is upon us what are some realities in our world that need the touch of Mercy? How can I personally/ communally work to make a difference?

Pause

Prayer of the Faithful

Convener:

In light of the challenges of today and God's promise to be faithful, let us pray that we might respond to the injustices of today as Catherine did in her day.

Leader: Catherine said: "It is a special favor of God to be made servants of the suffering poor."

All: Help us to be women and men who have a willingness to be identified with the poor, the sick, and the oppressed.

Leader: Catherine said: "A Sister of Mercy ought not to be disquieted or discouraged by clamor or discontent."

All: Help us to be women and men who are happy, who find pleasure in solitude as well as in companionship, in work as well as in play, in change as well as in constancy, who smile our own rainbows, sing our own songs and look to ourselves to find fulfillment from within.

Leader: Catherine said: “Sisters of Mercy should be particularly kind, the kindest people on earth, with the tenderest pity and compassion for the poor.”

All: Help us to be women and men who show patience and kindness and consideration, who share warmth and encouragement and comfort, who give generously of ourselves to everyone around us.

Leader: Catherine said: “While we place all of our confidence in God, we must always act as if success depended on our own efforts.”

All: Help us to be successful women and men who discover and share the strengths and talents that are uniquely our own, who appreciate that which is good in all people, who value the differences that make each of them unique.

Leader: Catherine said: “We should never falter in our confidence that God will make all things turn to the best.”

All: Help us to be contented women and men, who remember happy yesterdays and dream of bright tomorrows, yet whose lives are firmly focused on today, who

accept everything we have been and
value everything we are as we strive to
become everything we want to be. Amen

Closing Prayer

Convener:

God, as we celebrate Mercy Day, we ask you to open our eyes to see you in all the people we meet and to continue to work to make mercy more present in our world. We ask all of this of you, our God, through the intercession of Catherine McAuley and all our founding mothers. Amen

Closing Song

“Suscipe”

With thanks to the South Central Community who updated and adapted this prayer service based on one composed by the Mid-Atlantic Community.



www.sistersofmercy.org