

## *Remembrance - November 11, 2023*

### **Song** Circle of Mercy

In mercy, we touch the hearts of those who are in misery.  
In mercy, we're touched by them and feel their strength and courage.  
In mercy, we heal the pain of those who are in sorrow.  
In mercy, we're healed by them and see the face of hope.

Refrain: For the circle of mercy is timeless: it is Spirit of Life itself.  
Which grounds us in faith, and lifts us in hope,  
and holds us in God's loving care and holds us in God's loving care.

In mercy, we welcome those the world has left rejected.  
In mercy, we're drawn within the loving heart of God.  
In mercy, we forgive the incompleteness in another.  
In mercy, our sins are healed and we are whole again.

### Refrain

In mercy, the Spirit Faith will root us in God's presence.  
In mercy, the Spirit Hope will lift us out of doubt.  
In mercy, the love of God will be our joy in living.  
In mercy, we join with one another on our journey.

### Refrain

Jeannette Goglia RSM



### **Opening Prayer**

God of compassion and mercy, source of compassion and love.  
Inspire us to live the Gospel call to care for all who are most vulnerable.  
Kindle in us a fire for justice poured out on our world.  
May we be like Catherine McAuley in our faith, our love and our hope. Amen. *Mercy Prayers*

### **Readings**

On this day, November 11, countries within and outside the Commonwealth celebrate Remembrance Day or Veterans Day, recalling the sacrifice made by our men and women in the military who died in the World Wars and in other subsequent battles. Catherine's death occurred seventy-seven years before the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918. We honour Catherine. We honour the men and women who gave their lives in the service of their country.

The bright moment in grief is when the sore absence gradually changes into a well of presence. You become aware of the subtle companionship of the departed one. You know that when you are in trouble, you can turn to the presence beside you, and draw on it for encouragement and blessing. The departed is now no longer restricted to any one place but can be with you any place you are. It is good to know the blessings of this presence.

Grief by John O'Donohue

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace.... Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and humans, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.... From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus* (2015)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of God's Spirit.

Romans 15:13



### **Reflection**

How do you experience the wellspring of God's Mercy? of the well of Catherine's presence?

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Response: **God of mercy, transform our words into actions.**

We pray for all those who, like Catherine McAuley and the war dead, have given their lives in service to others. **R.**

We pray that in this Synodal event led by the Holy Spirit that all unite in prayer and listening. **R.**

We pray for peace and unity: that global leaders may work together to end war, violence and persecution. **R.**

We pray that we may find hope as we confront the challenges of the climate crisis. **R.**

We pray for Sisters of Mercy and the mercy community throughout the world that Catherine's presence may call us to draw from the wellsprings of mercy. **R.**

### **Closing Prayer**

May the God of Mercy continue to lead us and inspire us.

May the presence of Catherine be a light and a joy for the road.

May the compassion of Jesus be our guide and our measure.

In the name of the Trinity of Love: Creator, Word and Spirit.

Now and always. Amen.