

From the heart of the Trinity, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly - September 24, 2024



06 Steadfast
Love.mp3

Hymn: The Steadfast Love of God

Opening Prayer:

May your own need and knowing of mercy
lead you to its need and its knowing in others.

Mercy be the name;

Mercy be the path;

Mercy at the heart.

Ever, ever. Amen. Mary Wickham rsm

Readings:

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. 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)



The steadfast love of our God never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end; they are
renewed every morning.

Lamentations 3:22-23

Catherine lived a fairly balanced life. Indeed she was a woman committed to being an instrument of God's mercy to those most particularly in need. She was also a woman who was united with the compassionate sufferings of Jesus Christ particularly by her presence with those persons who are poor. At the same time, she was a woman in need of the tender mercy of God... Forgetting this dimension ... can lead to a kind of deadly seriousness about ourselves ... an over-emphasis on self-reliance and achievement, and a lack of balance between work and leisure, seriousness and play, self and other... If we worked a little less and spent more time listening to the deepest desires of our own hearts, what would we hear today? Might we come to that deeper gratitude of heart which Catherine evinced in her daily life for all the ways in which God surrounds us.

Mercy Readings from The Mercy Prayer Book

Reflection Question

Take some time to reflect on your journey in Mercy and how these words speak to your heart. Take one word, phrase or line and quietly repeat it to yourself a few times.

Response:

Excerpt from the Talmud we have returned to for hope:

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.

Do justly now.

Love mercy now.

Walk humbly now.

You are not obligated to complete the work,
but neither are you free to abandon it.

Closing Prayer

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

May the spirit 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.

