

A JUBILEE RESOURCE FOR THE WEEKS OF LENT 2016



CALLED TO BE a people of

HOPE



"The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy. How many pages of Sacred Scripture are appropriate for meditation during the weeks of Lent to help us rediscover the merciful face of the Father!" MV 17



MERCIFUL like the Father

WEEK ONE
*The God of
merciful love*

 JUBILEE
of MERCY
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WEEK ONE THE GOD OF MERCIFUL LOVE

'...so strong is his love for those who fear him.'

OPENING PRAYER

Just and merciful God,
true Lord of every house,
sure delight of every heart,
come into our midst today
to speak your word and satisfy our hunger.

Enable us to see you clearly,
to welcome you with joy,
and to give justice and mercy a place in our lives.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

WORD OF GOD

Psalm 103

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion,
who fills your life with good things,
renewing your youth like an eagle's.

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgment for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.

As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him;
for he knows of what we are made,
he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass;
he flowers like the flower of the field;
the wind blows and he is gone
and his place never sees him again.

But the love of the Lord is everlasting
upon those who hold him in fear;
his justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth,
when they keep his will in their mind.

The Lord has set his sway in heaven
and his kingdom is ruling over all.
Give thanks to the Lord, all his angels,
mighty in power, fulfilling his word,
who heed the voice of his word.

Give thanks to the Lord, all his hosts,
his servants who do his will.
Give thanks to the Lord, all his works,
in every place where he rules.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord!



REFLECTION

Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB

*The reflection from Fr Henry is available to download from cliftondiocese.com.
Play the video clip [here](#).*

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

What name do we use to call upon God in prayer? Is it new to us that God's principle name is *mercy*?

As in the gospels people call out to Jesus for mercy, is there a *tender spot* in our lives that is in need of the Lord's healing touch (or are these the things we prefer to hide from God)?

How are we called to mirror the merciful love of God in our families and in our communities, particularly during this season of Lent?

Re-read the Scripture passage for this session. You may like to follow the reading with a time of prayer and intercession after which you might pray the OUR FATHER.

FINAL PRAYER

Loving Father,
you are a God of mercy and compassion.

We thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, into our world
to show and teach us how to love.

When we walk through the
Door of Mercy during this Holy Year,
may we open our hearts to you
so that we may reflect your love, mercy
and compassion in our families,
communities and parishes.

May we walk with Jesus through the 'streets of Galilee',
comforting the sick, opening our arms
to the 'little ones', sharing with the poor
and searching out the marginalised in our society.

May it be a year when barriers between us fall
and reconciliation becomes possible:
a year when our faith in your mercy is strengthened
and we learn how to be your face of mercy in our world. Amen.