

# The one who showed him mercy

## A Holy Hour on the theme of Justice

### Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

#### Exposition

##### Song

*After the people have assembled, a song may be sung while the minister comes to the altar.  
Suggested themes and songs can be found at the end of this resource.*

#### Adoration

##### Reading

Luke 10:25–37

Behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

##### Reflection

Who is my neighbour, and how do I care for them?

Who is my neighbour, and how do I care for them? In this time of reflection before the Blessed Sacrament, I would like to invite you to journey with three particular characters in our story and to consider who you can most closely identify with in this passage and why.

First, let us consider the man abandoned for dead. This unnamed wanderer has been harmed by robbers, nearly to death. This fallen man has been taken by some Christian theologians, such as St Thomas Aquinas, to represent the wider human condition and our suffering on account of original sin. We have all been robbed by sin, either our own or that of others, throughout our lives and have been in as much need of mercy as this man.

Secondly, let us meet again with the Samaritan who, despite being a social outcast and no stranger to abandonment on account of his different religious background, stops to help the fallen man with compassion and care. Rather than avoiding, blaming or condemning, the Samaritan takes responsibility for his restoration. There is something Christlike in his gracious offering of compassion to someone who cannot repay him.

In contrast to the priest and Levite, who know the religious laws but choose fear over love, the Good Samaritan goes beyond conventions, fulfilling his deeper duty to love his neighbour as himself, and chooses love over fear.

Lastly, let us return to the lawyer who prompts Christ to tell the parable. Though he sought eternal life, he also tried to test Christ through intellectual questions. Strikingly, the probing questions of the lawyer ultimately result in a practical command from Christ to take action and show mercy to those in need. Like the priest and Levite, the lawyer appears to be initially more concerned with thoughts than actions, more concerned with law than grace, more concerned with avoiding wrong than doing good. Instead, Christ provocatively reframes the encounter, both with the lawyer and between the characters in the story, as one of love as the practice of compassion.

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## Intercessions

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers throughout the world, that are facing poverty. That leaders address issues in order to help the most needy in our societies.

Let us pray for our own communities, that people help and support each other, raise each other up and become positive leaders in society.

Let us pray for those who work for justice and peace, that they are a sign of hope in our troubled world.

## Benediction

*The priest or deacon goes to the altar genuflects and kneels. A hymn, such as Tantum ergo, or other eucharistic song is sung.*

### Prayer.

*The following is suggested from the Rite:*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you gave us the eucharist  
as the memorial of your suffering and death.  
May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood  
help us to experience the salvation you won for us  
and the peace of the kingdom  
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever..

### Blessing

*The priest or deacon puts on the humeral veil, genuflects, and takes the monstrance or ciborium. He makes the sign of the cross over the people with the monstrance or ciborium in silence.*

## Reposition

### Reposition

*After the blessing the Blessed Sacrament is replaced in the tabernacle.*

### Acclamation

*As the Blessed Sacrament is being replaced the people may sing an acclamation.*

## Music

*Possible themes include: God's love for us, Love of God, Justice and Peace*

- Make me a channel of your peace
- Peace, Perfect Peace
- Lord of all Hopefulness
- Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour
- God of Justice – Tim Hughes
- The Blessing - Elevation Worship
- Amazing Grace - Chris Tomlin
- Peace - Bethal Music



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### What can we do in Adoration?

One of St John Vianney's parishioners stated that in adoration he answered: 'I just look at Him, and He looks at me. And that is it'. It is one of the most intimate moments we can have with Jesus, being still and quiet, whilst gazing on him in Adoration.

*Some suggested ways to spend your time in Eucharistic Adoration:*

- **Silence:** do not be afraid of the silence, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus in the monstrance and just enter into his presence.
- **Pray:** have a conversation with Jesus, open your heart and share this with Jesus, who knows our innermost thoughts.
- **Read Scripture:** in this guide to adoration and holy hours, there will be a number of suggested Scripture passages for you to reflect on.
- **Journal:** write down what is on your mind (dreams, desires, worries and prayer intentions) and bring this to Jesus today.
- **Reading:** have a spiritual book to read that will help you become quiet and contemplative to help you focus your holy hour.
- **Hymns/Music:** there maybe times where a hymn or a piece of music is being played, listen and embrace the words. God can speak to us in many ways.

### Reflection

- The Good Samaritan sees the abandoned man and goes to help and support, he reaches out. "I look at him, and he looks at me" (CCC 2715) is the overarching theme of each holy hour, in our time of Adoration and reflection of the parable, let us think about how we see Jesus in others? Perhaps in the homeless person or those who are lonely. How do we recognise the true presence of Christ in others?
- Let us focus on the man abandoned: how many of us can relate to that sense of being beaten up by the trials and tribulations of life and left helpless by the side of the road, and in need of the loving mercy of Christ?
- Let us focus on The Good Samaritan: can we relate to the Good Samaritan, loving our neighbours in need beyond social expectations, or do we see more of ourselves in the priest and Levite, knowing good and evil but hesitant to practice Christian love when it costs us?
- Let us focus on Lawyer: like the lawyer, how often do we keep God, and our sharing of His compassionate love with others, at a distance to avoid the reality, risky yet rewarding, of loving those in need around us?

### Action

As you leave today, what might Jesus be calling you to do in order to become peacemakers? Is there an area which needs that peace, in our families, friendship groups, communities or even in the world? What can you do to help our sisters and brothers in need?