

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

A very warm welcome to this Lenten Journey in this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

OPENING PRAYER

As we gather we light a candle, reminding us that it is God who calls us into being, and drawing to mind that we gather in the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Quote from the "Face of Mercy."

We entrust the life of the Church, all humanity and the entire Cosmos to the Lordship of Christ, asking him to pour out his mercy upon us like the morning dew, so that everyone may work together to build a brighter future.

How much I desire that this year will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God!

May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst.

(Pope Francis, "The Face of Mercy 5")

PRAYER

Leader: Radiant face of mercy.. (All) may we encounter you present in our midst.

Leader: Ever faithful God, open our ears.. (All) so that we may hear you through the Gospel and the voice of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Leader: Revealer of mercy and truth, open our eyes.. (All) so that we may see you in all creation and in the Body of Christ now gathered here.

Leader: Holy wisdom open our minds..(All) so that we may begin our Lenten Journey with insight and discernment.

Leader: Compassionate and living God, open our hearts..(All) so that your love may overflow in us to bring joy to our neighbors and peace to the world.

Leader: Living voice of mercy, open our lips..(All) so that we may speak faithfully to others of you as our Way, our Truth and our Life.

GOSPEL of LUKE: 4:1-13

Being lost can also bring us to new discoveries.

When we are lost, we are no longer in control and our ego is no longer in the driver's seat. With deep humility, we can finally come to trust God to lead out of our wilderness.

Jesus was tested in the wilderness.

From the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, we “see” Jesus being tested from different perspective.

During this season of Lent, let us focus on the portrait of Jesus as revealed in the Gospel of Luke, sometimes referred to as the “Gospel of Mercy”

In the verse following the Gospel, we “see” Jesus returning from his wilderness experienced filled with power of the Holy Spirit.. Lead by the Spirit..4.1

Throughout the Gospels of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, we “See” that Jesus and the early Christian Church are sustained and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Luke’s portrait of Jesus in the wilderness is that he is serene and deeply conscious of the Word of God, as he responds to each test. (4:3-6)

We witness throughout the Gospel, God’s unending Mercy and Fidelity, through Jesus, his parables, his teachings, his healing of the sick, his hospitality to the marginalized and the forgiveness of sinners.

...we “see” God with hands of compassion and a heart overflowing with Love

The Motto for the Jubilee Year of Mercy is a quote from Luke’s Gospel

“Be merciful, as your Father is merciful” 4:36

A stronger translation,

‘BECOME MERCIFUL”

Let us open ourselves to the mercy of God, so that we may become “Mercy” to our brothers and sisters everywhere.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Leader: God of Mercy, your son faced trials and temptations in the wilderness. Strengthen us as we face the temptations of our time and grant compassion to all who call on you in their need.

Reader 1: To the God who listen to our cries, we pray..for peace in our broken world and for all who work for peace. God of Mercy:...R Hear our prayer.

Reader 2: For welcome and refuge for the displaced peoples of our earth: God of Mercy. R

Reader 3: For reconciliation in families and communities torn apart by hurt and fear; God of Mercy: R

Reader 4: For open and generous hearts, during this season of Lent; Lord of Mercy: R

Leader: Blessed be God merciful and compassionate who has reconciled us through Christ and calls us to new life by his grace. R. Blessed be God forever.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, full of compassion, look on us with tenderness and give us the grace to walk on the path of mercy marked out for those who follow you.

Because you walked among us you know our human experience. You have shared our joys and sorrows. You have healed and comforted us, sustained and renewed us. Through these days of Lent, may all we do reflect your merciful love. Encouraged by your care for us, we will with lively fidelity devote ourselves to the works of mercy. Through our good works, may people everywhere experience your unceasing care for them.

BLESSING

May God the Father with the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who has shown us such great mercy, bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen

Filled with God's compassion and radiant love, let us share with one another God's abundance peace and mercy.

(Sign of Peace)