



*Jesus sent the one he had cured home:*  
**Re-Visioning Mercy in our ministry.**

**Greeting:**

On this Mercy Day we gather to praise our God and to give thanks for all the blessings that we have received throughout our Mercy year that has just ended. We pray that we will use the Mercy year which we begin today with new enthusiasm and vision in the work of evangelisation.

In union with you, Mary Mother of Mercy, we commit ourselves to live more reflectively.

**Doxology:**

Glory be to God, our life-giver and sustainer. Glory be to Jesus, our challenge to openness in re-visioning and reflective living. Glory be to the Holy Spirit, our energy and inspiration in ministry. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn:**

I Will Sing of Your Salvation, No 12 on the CD  
Circle of Mercy,

*(Helen Gilsdort, RSM. Region of Burlingame)*

**Ant:**

Then Jesus laid his hands on the man's eyes again and he saw clearly; he was cured, and he could see everything plainly and distinctly (Mk 8:25).

**Psalm: 51: 1, 5&7.**

Have mercy on me, O God in your goodness,  
in your great tenderness wipe away my faults;  
wash me clean of my guilt,  
purify me from my sin.

God create a clean heart for me,  
put into me a new and constant spirit,  
do not banish me from your presence,  
do not deprive me of your holy spirit.

Save me from my own blindness, God my Saviour,  
That I may be empowered to re-vision my vocation  
in Mercy;  
And then, Provident God, open my lips,  
and my mouth will speak your praise.

**Doxology:**

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**Ant:**

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### Scripture Reading: *Mk 8:22-26*

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought to him a blind man whom they begged him to touch. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. Then, putting spittle on his eyes and laying his hands on him, he asked, "Can you see anything?"

The man, who was beginning to see, replied, "I can see people; they look like trees as they walk around." Then he laid his hands on the man's eyes again and he saw clearly; he was cured, and he could see everything plainly and distinctly. And Jesus sent him home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."

### Reflection:

Holy and gracious God, I recognise myself very clearly in this blind person at Bethsaida.

The fact that once Jesus touched his eyes that first time, he could see people who looked like trees as they walk around, tells me that, like me, he was born with the gift of sight. But he had lost it. The sight he's lost was not physical but spiritual. He set out in life with the right motivation and focus. Somehow, in his pilgrim journey, he had lost You, and so, true vision.

He had:

deviated from the fervour of his youth  
compromised authentic values  
relaxed – probably mixed with the wrong company  
Possibly, he was unconsciously swayed by the superficial and self-gratifying.  
Your invitation to live a reflective life appeared too demanding and was forgotten.

That Jesus had to touch his eyes a second time illustrates that his conversion was a slow and painful one. His fall was steep and he was entrenched. Jesus had to treat him as a special case – one who was in need of gentle and loving nurturing.

"Do not even go into the village." Jesus told him. Compassionate as ever, Jesus knew that like those who had been sinned against, the sinner, too, had been badly wounded and broken. There was need for space in which to absorb anew the warm mercy of God. He sent him "home" – to hallowed ground, a sacred space – a place where he could relax, reflect, renew, and make reparation.

Holy and loving God, grant me the grace to recognise:  
my own spiritual blindness  
self-indulgence  
the distance I have moved from my initial fervour.

Make me aware of the ways in which I have compromised the Gospel:  
need for recognition of the ease with which I put prayer in second place, failure to engage dynamically with the needs of this new age, and forgetfulness of the maxim of Venerable Catherine McAuley:

**"We can never say, "it is enough."**

Touch me a second time, as Jesus touched the blind person at Bethsaida and send me home so that I may be enabled to recognise and deal with my own brokenness.

Show me:

the important relationships in my life  
the genuine needs of others  
the goodness and beauty in my 'world'  
and the sheer joy of a renewed discipleship in Mercy where you are known,  
loved and praised daily in Jesus' name. Amen.

PAUSE

*We can never say,  
'it is enough.'*

## Thanksgivings:

Loving and gracious God, I thank you for sight and light to see beyond myself:

**For the gift of touch –**

we praise and thank you, our God.

**For the gift of repentance –**

we praise and thank you, our God.

**For the gift of forgiveness –**

we praise and thank you, our God.

**For the gift of transformation –**

we praise and thank you, our God.

**For the gift of light –**

we praise and thank you, our God.

**For the gift of new vision –**

we praise and thank you, our God.

**For the gift of healing –**

we praise and thank you, our God.

**For the gift of joy –**

we praise and thank you, our God.

**For the gift of celebration –**

we praise and thank you, our God.

**For the gift of compassion –**

we praise and thank you, our God.

**For the gift of discipleship in Mercy –**

we praise and thank you, our God.

## Concluding Prayer – Suscipe of Venerable Catherine:

*Let us pray together:*

My God, I am yours for time and eternity.

Teach me to cast myself entirely into the arms of your loving Providence with a lively, unbounded confidence in your compassionate, tender pity.

Grant me, O most merciful Redeemer, that whatever you ordain or permit may be acceptable to me.

Take from my heart all painful anxiety. Suffer nothing to sadden me but sin, nothing to delight me but the hope of coming to you, my God and my all, in your everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

## Blessing:

May the light of God brighten our journey in as we re-vision our discipleship in Mercy. Amen.

May the vision of Jesus for reflective living and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit persuade us of the need to work collaboratively so that together we may “see clearly” and so, re-vision our discipleship in Mercy. Amen.

May the blessing † of God: Creator, Teacher and Guide descend upon each one of us anew on this Mercy Day and remain with us forever. Amen.

*My God,  
I am yours for  
time and eternity...*