LITANY OF MERCY

A reader or one section of the group reads the main text, the rest respond with the bold type.

Creator God – Maker and Source of Mercy – all praise to You.
Jesus – exemplar and champion of Mercy – all praise to You.
Spirit – artist and animator of Mercy – all praise to You.

Out of the profound silence of Your Presence we murmur the words of Mercy:
+ Rahamim: the womb love – inscribe it on our hearts.
+ Hesed: the loving kindness – inscribe it on our hearts.
+ Eleos: the healing oil – inscribe it on our hearts.
+ the words of tenderness and empathy – inscribe them on our hearts.
+ the words of tolerance and forgiveness – inscribe them on our hearts.
+ the words of justice and faithfulness – inscribe them on our hearts.

In the encounters of the life of Jesus we find our Mercy meaning:
+ the woman with the alabaster jar – may we meet as Jesus met.
+ the rich young man – may we meet as Jesus met.
+ the little girl brought to life – may we meet as Jesus met.
+ the three at Bethany – may we meet as Jesus met.
+ the lepers, the outcasts, the lost – may we meet as Jesus met.

In the imagination of Jesus we find our Mercy inspiration:
+ the one sheep who went missing – may we do as Jesus told it.
+ the son who was welcomed home – may we do as Jesus told it.
+ the vineyard workers, late and early – may we do as Jesus told it.
+ the treasure buried in the field – may we do as Jesus told it.
+ the only one who stopped to help – may we do as Jesus told it.

In the life of our forebears we recognise Mercy:
+ for Mary of Nazareth and Calvary – we thank You.
+ for Catherine McAuley, woman of Dublin – we thank You.
+ for our founders and pioneers, the near and the far – we thank You.
+ for our holy ones and wisdom figures – we thank You.
+ for the heroic and the humble – we thank You.

With all Your creation we share our life in Mercy:
+ the feather and the fur – we respect and cherish.
+ the waterway and the breeze – we respect and cherish.
+ the rock and the leaf – we respect and cherish.
+ the fish and the star – we respect and cherish.
+ the flame and the stalk – we respect and cherish.
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The colour of mercy – we celebrate.
the shape of mercy – we celebrate.
the mystery of mercy – we celebrate.
the arenas of mercy – we celebrate.

The unfinished chapters – we pledge mercy.
the unmet need – we pledge mercy.
the violence, the horror – we pledge mercy.
the urgent immensities – we pledge mercy.
the cries, the silences, the aches and injuries – we pledge mercy.

In Your name, with Your help, by Your hand.
In the large days and ordinary ways,
alone and together, we are people for Mercy.

Mercy calls us – Mercy calls us.
Mercy guides us – Mercy guides us.
Mercy sustains us – Mercy sustains us.

Amen.

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To read more of Sr Mary's poetry visit:
marywickhamrsm.org.au

To learn about the Sisters of Mercy visit:
www.mercyworld.org