

## MERCY HAS A NAME

Hour of Adoration

### *Introduction*

[for group prayer]: **materials needed:** small slips of paper, one for each person or your personal journal book if your are praying alone in a chapel or a silent place in your home.

"Jesus as a proper name tells us how Yahweh willed to be in our regard: close, loving, helpful, faithful to the end. In Jesus and through him we know what we have in God. Otherwise we do not. ***He is the Word of the Father, in whom as the word of mercy God expresses Himself to the world.*** Consequently, if we wish to say who our God is, we must say "Jesus." If we were to forget this Word, God would disappear for us into the dark inaccessibility of an incomprehensible ground of the world.

"But we Christians know the definitive name of God: ***Jesus***. For that is the name which that child received who is God and the eternal youth of the world, who is a man and as such the eternal countenance of God. Let us give this name to the coming year. Let us sign the cross of this Jesus on brow, mind and heart. Let us say with relief: our help is in the name of the Lord! And then stoutheartedly let us cross the threshold of the New Year. If his name shines above it, even its darkest hour will be an hour of the year of the Lord and of his salvation" (Karl Rahner, SJ).

**Silently place your intentions for this Hour of Adoration.**

Let us pray to be open to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit as we reflect on God's Word.

### **Prayer before Reading Sacred Scripture**

Jesus, give me a heart open to your word. Send your Spirit to remind me of the truths you teach, the witness of your life, the wisdom of your way. Thank you for the gift of Sacred Scripture, your living word and food for my journey. May I preserve your words in my mind and meditate on them in my heart as your Mother Mary did, so that all my words and actions may proclaim you.

### **Proclamation of the Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:21; 1:31-32; Isa 9:6**

<sup>21</sup>A week later, when the time came for the baby to be circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name which the angel had given him before he had been conceived. <sup>31</sup>You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was... And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb...



*The Face of Mercy* by Pope Francis:

8. With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze, we experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity. The mission Jesus received from the Father was that of revealing the mystery of divine love in its fullness. “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8, 16), John affirms for the first and only time in all of Holy Scripture. This love has now been made visible and tangible in Jesus’ entire life. His person is nothing but love, a love given gratuitously. The relationships he forms with the people who approach him manifest something entirely unique and unrepeatable. The signs he works, especially in favor of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion.

**Reflection** - As we reflect on God's Mercy manifest in Jesus, let us ask ourselves: who is Jesus for me? What does his Name mean to me? Let us write this on the slip of paper provided (or in my journal) and silently place it before the altar as an act of adoration to our Divine Master and Redeemer. *(For the group, soft music possibly as slips are placed at the altar).* What is Jesus telling me about his name? What his name means to me is how I see Jesus and who he is for me.

**Take time now to thank the Lord for the countless blessings he has given us in and through the Sacraments, the Church, in our daily lives, in our family, through friends, and for the times he has enlightened us throughout the day.**

(For group adoration) Those who wish to do so may share their thanksgiving aloud. After every prayer of thanksgiving the community will acclaim together: ***Eternal are your mercies, Lord!***

**Reflection for the Examination of Conscience – take time to consider and pray over the following scripture passages.**

*"I am a miracle of God! Your infinite mercy brought me to this point in my life! "By God's favor I am what I am" (1 Cor 15:10)...*

*"I am one with Christ, and his interests are mine. His intentions and his words are mine. My doctrine is his, and my life is that of Christ. I accomplish the work of Christ, or better, it is Christ who accomplishes it through me..."*

**Consideration** – How has God shown me mercy in my life? How have I accepted his mercy and have shown it to others? Am I aware of Christ wishing to accomplish his work through me? In examining my conscience am I willing to listen to Jesus who is asking me to progress in certain areas of my life?

After having examined my conscience I pray this prayer slowly letting this prayer heal my soul. With a contrite heart I ask pardon of the Lord for the times I have failed to hold love in my heart and I thank him for the times he reminded me of his presence when I was about to think, say or do something that was not in line with his way of loving.

### **Prayer**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O Good Jesus, hear me.  
Within Your wounds hide me.  
Let me not be separated from thee.  
From the malignant enemy defend me.  
In the hour of my death call me.  
And bid me come unto thee,  
That with Thy saints, I may praise thee  
Forever and ever. Amen.

As Christians we are called to be witnesses to the Name of Jesus. Ask Jesus Master for the grace to witness his face of mercy to one another and to the world. How would I be able to prove my

love for Jesus throughout the coming day? Will there be times when I will be put to the test? How will I carry out my resolution to have my thoughts, words and actions modeled on those of Jesus?

### **Invocations to Jesus Master**

Jesus Master, sanctify my mind and increase my faith.  
Jesus, teaching in the Church, draw everyone to your school.  
Jesus, Master, deliver me from error, from vain thoughts and from eternal darkness.  
Jesus, Way, between the Father and us, I offer you all and await all from you.  
Jesus, Way of sanctity, make me your faithful imitator.  
Jesus, Way, render me perfect as your Father who is in heaven.  
Jesus, Life, live in me, so that I may live in you.  
Jesus, Life, do not permit me to be separated from you.  
Jesus, Life, may I live eternally in the joy of your love.  
Jesus, Truth, may I be light for the world.  
Jesus, Way, may I be an example and model for souls.  
Jesus, Life, may my presence bring grace and consolation everywhere.

**Pray a mystery or two of the rosary** to ask the graces that are needed to keep ones resolution.

For example: The Third Joyful mystery – Jesus is born in the stable of Bethlehem in the midst of poverty. Let us offer him our heart during this mystery of the rosary.

The Fourth Joyful mystery – The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple – Although not duty bound Mary presents Jesus in the temple. Let us ask for the grace to understand the importance of obedience to God’s will in our life.

### **Silent Adoration**

#### **Closing of the Hour of Adoration**

(Scripture: New Revised Standard Version; photo: public domain)