



Prayer Service
The Doors of Mercy

INTRODUCTION

Good morning, and welcome to this prayer service. The theme for our prayer is, “The Doors of Mercy.” The heart of Jesus is our door of mercy. Through this door, the Father’s mercy flows outward to humanity, engulfing us with a tender and inexhaustible love. United to Jesus through baptism and called to serve his Gospel in our Catholic school system, we are witnesses to God’s mercy. We pass through this door and reach out to the wounded, outcast and weary, helping others to do the same. Let us take a few moments to pray and reflect on this theme, in light of God’s word.

Opening Prayer:

Let us begin with the sign of our faith:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

And let us pray:

God of Love and compassion,
help us to open the door of mercy in our school communities,
in our families and in the world.

Let mercy guide our living and bring us closer to the heart of the gospel.

With your merciful help,
may we live as Jesus with mercy that welcomes, loves, forgives
and calls us to live the gospel joyfully.

We make this prayer to you in his name.

+Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

(Lk 10: 25-37)

The Divine Mercy Chaplet

His Holiness, Pope Francis encourages all Christians to offer God’s mercy “to every person who asks for it with an honest heart.” Let us also pray to St. Faustina, Apostle of Divine Mercy, to intercede for us, that we might grow in our love of God and in our prayer to be witnesses to His boundless mercy in our lives and in the lives of those we serve.

Leader: St. Faustina, Apostle of Divine Mercy,
All: Pray for us.

Our Lord revealed a powerful prayer to Saint Faustina – The Chaplet of Mercy. Saint Faustina prayed the Chaplet almost constantly, especially for the dying. The Lord urged her to encourage others to do the same, promising extraordinary graces to those who should recite this special prayer.

Let us now pray the Chaplet of Mercy offering our intentions for all humankind, especially all sinners.

Leader: Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins but upon our trust which we place in Your infinite goodness.

All: Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from it. We beg this of You by Your love which unifies You to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all humankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus.

All: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy for ever and ever. Amen

Leader: **Our Father** who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

All: Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Leader: **Hail Mary**, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Leader: **I believe in God,**
The Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: Eternal Father,
I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity
of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ,
All: in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

10 times -

Leader: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
All: Have mercy on us and on the whole world.

3 times -

Leader: Holy God,
Holy Mighty One,
Holy Immortal One,
All: Have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Closing Prayer:

God of mercy and compassion,

We thank you for the gift of your unconditional love.

Through the parable of the Good Samaritan, you showed us how love can transcend all differences.

As we begin this school year together, invite us to follow this inspiring example.

Transform us into true witnesses of your mercy.

Give us hearts that cry for those among us who are wounded by the side of the road.

Give us hands that can help to heal their wounds.

Give us feet that will walk with them to safety.

May our school community and workplaces be a place of mercy in which strangers are welcome and invited to become friends.

Remind us, Lord, that the love we give to others is the greatest gift we can give to you.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Lord.

Amen

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.