

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful
like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you
sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew
from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene
from seeking happiness
only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us,
the words that you spoke
to the Samaritan woman:
"If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power
above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world,
its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers
would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for
those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them
feel sought after, loved,
and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate
every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy
may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,
may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary,
Mother of Mercy,
you who live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.



LOGO FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY

The motto "Merciful Like the Father" (Luke 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn, but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure. The Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, his or her own humanity and the future that lies ahead.

Drawings inside are by Steve Harrold and Steve Lee.

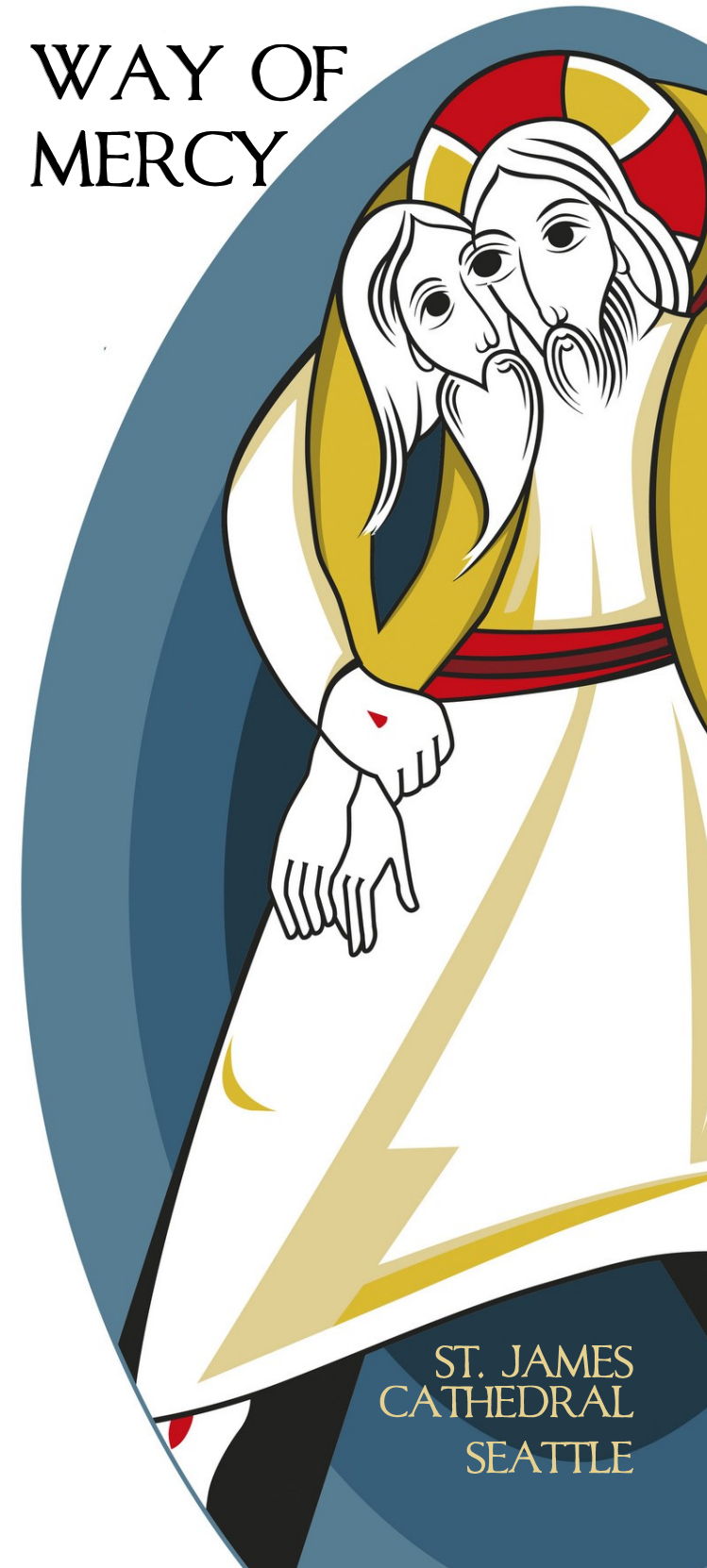
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WAY OF MERCY



ST. JAMES
CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE

THE WAY OF MERCY: A SELF-GUIDED PILGRIMAGE OF PRAYER THROUGH ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

You are invited to pause and reflect on the mercy of God at each of the following places in the Cathedral. This Way of Mercy invites you to reflect on the mercy of God at seven special places in the Cathedral. It includes an opportunity to pray for the intentions of the Holy Father and to profess your faith, both of which are traditional elements of a Jubilee pilgrimage. In order to obtain the Jubilee indulgence, you are also asked to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in the days before or after your visit to St. James.

Begin your visit with the Year of Mercy prayer.

1 Doors of Mercy

The Cathedral's bronze doors were opened for the first time to mark the beginning of the Great Jubilee Year 2000. Now Archbishop Sartain has designated them the Holy Doors for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The doors tell the story of God's loving relationship with humanity, from Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, to the redeeming work of Christ and the vision of the Heavenly City.



God says to Moses: I will show mercy to whom I will, I will take pity on whom I will. So it depends not upon a person's will or exertion, but upon God, who shows mercy. (Romans 9:15-16)

As I walk through the doors of mercy, I rejoice in the merciful love of God. I ask God's mercy on all those for whom I pray today, both the living and the dead. I ask God to help me to be more merciful in all the relationships of my life.

2 Baptismal Font

The early Church Fathers referred to the font as "the womb of the Church." Here, new Christians profess their faith in God and then are plunged into the waters of forgiveness and new life. Each time we enter a church, the holy water reminds us of our baptism, our faith, and our call to live for God and for others.



Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father? I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic

Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting? I do.

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (Rite of Baptism)

Standing by this font, I pray that I may live my baptism more fully, becoming ever more merciful like the Father and loving like the Son through the power and action of the Holy Spirit.

3 St. John XXIII

The newest shrine in the Cathedral honors St. John XXIII, the Pope who called the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). The Year of Mercy is linked to the Council: it begins on December 8, 2015, the 50th anniversary of the closing of Vatican II.



Today the Church prefers to use the medicine of mercy rather than of severity.... She desires to show herself as the loving mother of all; benign, patient, full of mercy and goodness to the children separated from her. (St. John XXIII, address at the opening of Vatican II, October 11, 1962)

At this shrine of Saint John XXIII, I offer a prayer for Pope Francis, that God may grant his intentions and give him health and strength as he leads the Church in the way of mercy.

4 Altar

An ancient saying tells us that "the altar is Christ." The altar is "the center of thanksgiving" in any church building. Above the Cathedral's altar are words of Jesus: "I am in your midst as one who serves" (Luke 22:27). Here Christ serves us and invites us find him in service of others.

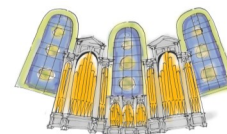


Behold, I come to the sacrament of your Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, as one sick to the physician of life, as one unclean to the fountain of mercy. (St. Thomas Aquinas)

Standing before this altar, I give thanks for the gift of the Eucharist in my life. I pray for the day when all Christian believers may feast together at one altar.

5 Mercy Windows

The East Apse windows in the Cathedral depict the corporal works of mercy in terms of the passion and resurrection of Christ. The central reminds us that our baptism is a call to be people of mercy, to meet Christ



in the stranger, the naked, the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, and the imprisoned.

Whatever you did for one of these least ones, you did for me. (Matthew 25:40)

I give thanks for God's merciful love to me and I resolve that in this Year of Mercy, I will find concrete ways to show that mercy to others by practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

6 Blessed Sacrament Chapel

The tabernacle recalls the story of Moses and the burning bush. In the bush, on fire yet not consumed, Moses encountered the living God. Here, we encounter the risen Christ, who inexhaustibly gives himself to his people in the Eucharist.



The LORD, the LORD, a God gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love and fidelity, continuing his love for a thousand generations... (Exodus 34:6-7)

I reflect on the ways I have experienced God's mercy through the Church, and I pray that the Church may faithfully show the merciful face of the Father to all people.

7 Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary holds the infant Christ, who in turn holds an apple, a reminder of the Genesis story. Christ, "mercy made flesh," is God's response to sin: "When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive" (Pope Francis).



Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

At the end of my pilgrimage, I ask Mary's intercession that this time of prayer will bear fruit in my life and in the Church.

End your Jubilee visit by praying the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be to the Father.