



Grace for High Tea Foundation Day

December 12, 2011

Ritual: *Pour tea into one cup from teapot.*

Leader: Good and gracious God, pour out your Mercy once again as we gather in Mercy in the name of our sister, Catherine, on this our Foundation Day.

Ritual: *Let it steep as we pray.*

Leader: Catherine is here among us this day.
Her warmth and hospitality encompass us.
Her delight in witnessing our union and charity stirs us to compassionate service.
Her heart, so steeped in mercy,
holds us as we hold our fragile world.

Catherine speaks:

Choose God every day. Choose to live the life God gives you to live.
Choose to live it as Jesus lived it to the glory of God and in service to
human needs.

All: God of Mercy, make us your own,
the measure of oil and meal
served with tender courage,
and with passion for service to a hungry world.

Catherine speaks:

Choose to give the gift you have been given with love, tender courage,
and humble cheerfulness and choose it every day.

All: God of Mercy, make us your own,
the measure of oil and meal
served with tender courage,
and with passion for service to a hungry world.

Catherine speaks:

Be a sister and brother to all in need.
Be a person of Mercy, steward of God's great gift of Mercy,
the gift that explodes God's love into history,
into the universe, even to unseen galaxies,
and into the remote and unimagined recesses of the human heart.

All: God of Mercy, make us your own,
the measure of oil and meal served with tender courage,
and with passion for service to a hungry world.

Catherine speaks:

Embrace God's gift to receive it-
Dispense it freely, immediately, luxuriously,
for the gift evaporates in storage but becomes the measure of oil and meal
-never empty- when constantly served to a world of people
hungering to be WRAPPED IN MERCY~ accepted, loved, forgiven, cherished.
(Joanna Regan, RSM)

All: God of Mercy, make us your own,
the measure of oil and meal served with tender courage
with passion for service to a hungering world.

Ritual: *Hold up the one cup of tea- our common gift in the circle of Mercy.*

Leader: Merciful One, by your desire and design you have steeped us in Mercy.
May we who have known your tenderness and been blessed by your bounty
give witness to your unbounded care for all who are your own.
Bless this gathering in your name and let our joy overflow
so that all who hunger and thirst for justice
may know your Mercy through us
for time and eternity.

In a special way on this feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe,
pour your compassion on the peoples of the Americas.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through your friend and our sister, Catherine.

All: Amen.

Ritual: *As one person pours tea for everyone, all join in singing **Circle of Mercy**.*
- Jeannette Goglia, RSM

All: In Mercy, we touch the hearts of those who are in misery.
In Mercy, we're touched by them and feel their strength and courage.
In Mercy, we heal the pain of those who are in sorrow.
In Mercy, we're healed by them and see the face of hope.
For the Circle of Mercy is timeless
it is Spirit of Life itself
which roots us in Faith,
and lifts us in Hope and holds us in God's loving care,
And holds us in God's loving care.

All: In Mercy, we welcome those the world has left rejected.
In Mercy, we're drawn within the loving heart of God.
In Mercy, we forgive the incompleteness in another,
In Mercy, our sins are healed and we are whole again. *refrain*

All: In Mercy, the Spirit Faith will root us in God's Presence.
In Mercy, the Spirit Hope will lift us out of doubt.
In Mercy, the love of God will be our joy in living,
In Mercy, we join with one another on our journey. *refrain*