

## Script - An Oasis of Mercy - 22 February 2016

*'An oasis is a small fertile or green area in a desert region, usually having a spring or a well'*

**Song**                    **Locus Iste (Anton Bruckner)**  
*This place was made by God*

**Reading**                **Luke 6:36-38**

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

**Song**                    **Let Your Mercy Wash Over Us (Trevor Thomson)**  
**All sing:**            Let your mercy wash over us like the rainfall refreshing the earth  
Let your mercy wash over us we your people are thirsting for you

**Reflection**            **Richard Rohr O.F.M.**

'When you fall into the **ocean of mercy**, you stop all counting and measuring. In fact, counting and weighing no longer make sense; they run counter to the experience of grace. As long as you keep counting, you will not realize that everyone is saved by mercy anyway.'

**All sing:**            Let your mercy wash over us like the rainfall refreshing the earth  
Let your mercy wash over us we your people are thirsting for you

**Reflection**            **Richard Rohr O.F.M.**

'I recently visited the 9/11 Memorial at the site of the Twin Towers in New York City. A huge waterfall drops down into the darkness of a lower pool whose bottom you cannot see. It struck me deeply as a metaphor for God: **mercy eternally pouring into darkness**, always filling an empty space. Grace fills all the gaps of the universe. Counting and measuring can only increase the space between things. Even better, water always falls and pools up in the very lowest and darkest places, just like mercy does. And mercy is just grace in action.'

**Song**                    **Your Mercy Like Rain (Rory Cooney)**  
**All sing:**            Let me taste your mercy like rain on my face;  
Here in my life, show me your peace.  
Let us see with our own eyes your day breaking bright.  
Come, O Morning, Come O Light!

**Reflection****The Merchant of Venice (William Shakespeare)**

The quality of mercy is not strain'd,  
 It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
 Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest;  
 It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:  
 'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes  
 The throned monarch better than his crown;  
 His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,  
 The attribute to awe and majesty,  
 Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;  
 But mercy is above this sceptred sway;  
 It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,  
 It is an attribute to God himself;  
 And earthly power doth then show likest God's  
 When mercy seasons justice. Therefore,  
 Though justice be thy plea, consider this,  
 That, in the course of justice, none of us  
 Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;  
 And that same prayer doth teach us all to render  
 The deeds of mercy.

**Song****Misericordias Domini (Taizé)**

**All sing:** Misericordias Domini in aeternam cantabo

**Reflection****Pope Francis – Misericordiae Vultus, 12**

‘The Church’s first truth is the love of Christ. The Church makes herself a servant of this love and mediates it to all people: a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of oneself. Consequently, wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident, in our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, **wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.**’

**All sing:** Misericordias Domini in aeternam cantabo

**Thought****Brother Alois of Taizé**

**Mercy** is not sentimental but demanding; it **knows no limits**. A law sets clear limits to a duty, whereas mercy never says, “That’s enough; I have done my duty.”

**Song****Living Water (Ronan McDonagh)**

**All sing:** I will give you **living water**, no more shall you thirst  
 I will give you living water, springing up within you.

**Prayer****Medieval Irish Lyric (trans. Carney)**

God, grant me a **well of tears** my sins to hide or I am like arid earth unsanctified!

**All sing:** I will give you living water, no more shall you thirst  
I will give you living water, **springing up** within you.

**Reflection Pope Francis – Misericordiae Vultus, 22**

‘From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the **great river of mercy wells up** and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends.’

**Song My Son Has Gone Away (Bob Dufford)**

**Reading Luke 15:21-24**

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

**Prayer Brother Roger of Taizé**

**All say:** ‘Bless us, Lord Christ; by your forgiveness you place on our finger the ring of the prodigal son.’

**Song God of Second Chances (David Haas)**

**All sing:** Come now, O God, of second chances; open our lives to heal.  
Remove our hate, and melt our rage. Save us from ourselves.  
Come now, O God, release our demons; open our eyes to see  
the shame within, our guilt and pain. Mend us; make us whole.

**Reading Luke 15: 25-32**

Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.” ‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”

**Dialogue The Elder Brother Speaks**

**Instrumental**      **Lag Fyrir Ömmu (Ölafur Arnalds)**

**Song ctd.**

**All sing:**      Come now, O God, shake our resentment; open our way to choose the way of love over the revenge. Show us a new way. Come now, O God, and grant compassion, open our hearts to love. May we let go of all our hurt. Help us to move on.

**Reflection**

**Saint Jerome – d.420**

Lord, show me your mercy  
and make my heart glad.  
I am like the man going to Jericho  
wounded by robbers:  
Good Samaritan, come help me.  
I am like the sheep gone astray:  
Good Shepherd, come and seek me  
and bring me home safe.  
Let me dwell in your house all my days  
And praise you forever. Amen.

**Song**

**Give Us Your Peace (Michael Mahler)**

**All sing:**      Jesus, give us your peace, bring us together let all the fighting cease. Shatter all our hearts of stone, give us a heart for love alone.

**Song**

**Total Praise (Richard Smallwood)**

**Prayer**

**Let us pray,**

**All say:**      God of peace, source of mercy,  
Plant in us seeds of tenderness and generosity that will bear fruit in the unfolding days of Lent.  
Water the roots of forgiveness and green the arid areas of our lives with gentle drops of compassion.  
Pour your living grace into our hearts so that we can be an oasis of mercy wherever we are.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Song**

**Misericordes Sicut Pater (Inwood/Costa)**

**All sing:**      Misericordes sicut Pater, misericordes sicut Pater

*Create an oasis of mercy in your home, office, school or church inspired by this reflection. Water it with thoughtful, listening prayer and generous acts of mercy flowing from your own heart during the season of Lent. Wait with loving patience for the blossoming.*