

## MERCY LOVES MUCH

Hour of Adoration

**Silent adoration – I ask God to Come into My Soul – and to lead me to greater union with him in my daily life.**

### Introduction

What is the Visit? It is the meeting of our soul and of all our being with Jesus.

It is the creature meeting the Creator;  
the disciple before the Divine Master;  
the patient with the Doctor of souls;  
the poor one appealing to the Rich One;  
the thirsty one drinking from the Font'  
the weak one presenting herself to the Almighty;  
the tempted one seeking a sure Refuge;  
the lost sheep sought by the divine Shepherd;  
the heart led astray who finds the Way;  
the bride who finds the Spouse of the soul;  
the nothing who finds the All;  
the afflicted who finds the Consoler;  
It is the woman at the house of Simon.

One approaches Jesus as the Mediator between God and humanity, as the Priest of the Father, as the Victim of expiation, as the Messiah come to earth, as the Word of God, the Shepherd, the Way and Truth and Life, as the Savior (Blessed James Alberione, ssp).

### Before Reading Sacred Scripture:

I welcome you, O Divine Word, with an attentive, docile and prayerful heart. Open my mind and my heart to hear your voice and understand and do your will; grant that I may be evangelized by the all-surpassing knowledge of Christ. Teach me wisdom. Be the light that illumines, purifies, prunes and heals, so that Christ Truth may be formed in me.

Transform me, Word of the Father, so that I may grow in union with you and as an apostle of your word. Live in me and in our home, church, workplace, and community, so that together we can grow in faith and discern events around us in order to respond to the Spirit's invitations. Your word is light – it is Way, Truth and Life. Amen.

### A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to Luke 7:36-50

#### A Sinful Woman Forgiven

<sup>36</sup>One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. <sup>37</sup>And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. <sup>38</sup>She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. <sup>39</sup>Now when

the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." <sup>40</sup> Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." <sup>41</sup> "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" <sup>43</sup> Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the



greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." <sup>44</sup> Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my

feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup> Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." <sup>48</sup> Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." <sup>49</sup> But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" <sup>50</sup> And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

What is Jesus saying to me in the above passage? What resonated with me when I read the Gospel reading?

**Take some time to reflect and reread the passage above and prepare to make an examination of conscience by pondering the following words of Pope Francis.**

Pope Francis in a homily on this Gospel, says "recognition of sins, our misery, the recognition of what we are and what we are capable of doing or have done is the door that opens us to the caress of Jesus, to the forgiveness of Jesus". The woman came because she had already experienced Jesus love & forgiveness. Perhaps he saw her on a previous visit, or just on the way to Simon's house, and she had experienced the glance that reached into her soul and spoke forgiveness and mercy; the glance that let her know that she was a loved child of the Father. Her pouring out of her tears and the ointment was a sign of the immensity of her sins, which had been forgiven, and the immensity of her love, which pushed her to break social norms, bursting uninvited into a house, because she had to show her sorrow and her gratitude. Jesus words now were a reassurance; yes, 'Your sins are forgiven'; 'Your faith has saved you' because you believe in and accept God's mercy; 'Go in peace', your dignity as a child of God is restored.

**After some time for the examination of conscience pray in your own words a prayer asking God for forgiveness for the faults committed.**

**Knowing that God is eager to shower his forgiveness, mercy and love on me, I pray Psalm 103 thanking God for his goodness**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
The Lord works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.  
The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always accuse,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.  
For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.  
As for mortals, their days are like grass;  
they flourish like a flower of the field;  
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.  
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting  
on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,  
to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.  
The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.  
Bless the Lord, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding,

obedient to his spoken word.  
Bless the Lord, all his hosts,  
his ministers that do his will.  
Bless the Lord, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.

**Formulate a resolution for the future to keep before your next prayer time. How do I want to spend my life for Christ in thought, word and in deed?**

**Before the closing of this hour of adoration, pray the Third Luminous Mystery of the Rosary – the Call to Repentance and the Proclamation of the Kingdom of God**

In this mystery of the Rosary, let us reflect on Jesus' forgiveness and pray for those who are in need of forgiveness or find it hard to ask for forgiveness, those who think God can't forgive them, and those who imprison others by their lack of forgiveness and their inability to accept the change in another.

#### **Silent Adoration**

**Asking God to continue to accompany me throughout this day I pray the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm for the Closing of this Hour of Adoration**

#### **The Divine Shepherd**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

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