

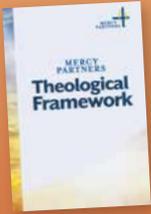
MERCY PARTNERS BOARD PRAYER RESOURCE

2018



God's *Eternal* Mercy





Gathering: *Mercy Partners Theological Framework* examines the Psalms which strike a familiar chord as much today as they did at the time of their writing. God’s people were waiting to be rescued and still today we see countries, communities and individuals anticipating God’s mercy and grace to save them.

From the Theological Framework

Of course, faith does not guarantee our safety in this world. Most people experience times when mercy seems far and distant, when through no fault of their own they feel helpless, as with the Psalmist: “How long Lord? Will you forget me forever?” (Psalm 13). And yet the experience of exile and humiliation gives way to return and exaltation throughout the Old Testament. God rescues God’s people from oppression, and this rescuing reveals the identity of God as “gracious and merciful,” a God whose “steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 136). “To repeat continually” notes Pope Francis, that “God’s mercy endures forever,” as the psalm does, seems to break through the dimensions of space and time, inserting everything into the eternal mystery of love” (*Misericordiae Vultus* 7).

For personal reflection

Have you experienced times when mercy seems far and distant?

SCRIPTURE
PASSAGE

Matthew 28:20

“Jesus said: And remember, I am with

Reading

In this excerpt Joyce Rupp reflects on the God of the Psalms – the God who rescues God’s people from oppression – and this rescuing reveals the identity of God as “gracious and merciful,” a God whose “steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 136).

Not that I have gotten rid of all the things that keep me from being a loving person. What has changed is that I now believe that this Searcher of my heart looks with a gaze of kindness at my inner life. The Holy One believes in my inherent goodness and is aware of my desire to change what I can regarding my weaknesses and wrongdoings. I now believe that God is merciful and just, always for me and never against me. I am also comforted by this verse because it reminds me of how near God is to me, so close that my soul can be found out. No part of my being is apart from the divine companion’s presence. What a great gift. God is a strength and a grace, encouraging me to continue to turn toward love.

– Joyce Rupp, *God’s Enduring Presence*, 2008.

Discussion

How do we reinforce the understanding of God as being with us always? Why is this message so important for today’s world?

Prayer

Eternal God,

Your mercy endures forever.

May we seek you in our joyous moments and in the depths of despair.

Help us to always find comfort and consolation through your mercy and grace.

Encourage us continue to turn toward love.

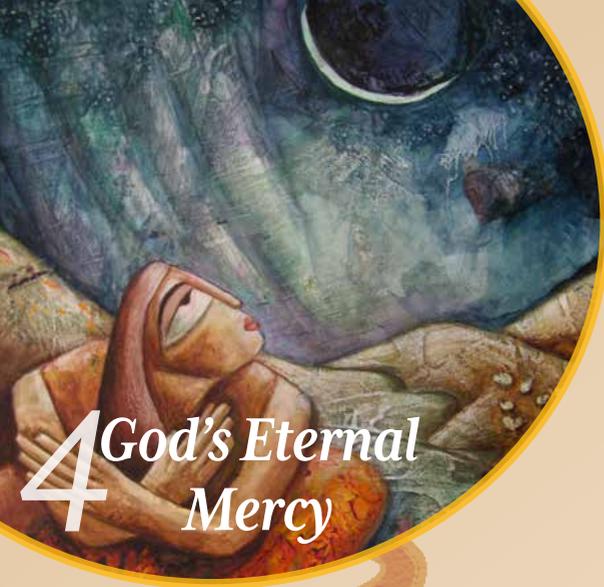
Amen.

Reference: *Mercy Partners Theological Framework*, Chapter 2 – The Experience of God’s Mercy.

READ MORE

You can read more on God’s eternal mercy from the scriptures and from Pope Francis: Hebrews 4:16, Micah 7:18, Isaiah 30:18, 2 Timothy 1:9, Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus (The Face of Mercy)* – *Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*. Read the full document at goo.gl/mZerLH.

you always, to the end of the time ”



4 God's Eternal Mercy

The Path of God's Mercy

A journey in scripture, church and human experience



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