

## Advent 2015: Year of Mercy

The official date for the beginning of Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy is December 8, the Immaculate Conception. Because we refuse to be excluded, here at Therese we are going to begin it earlier, actually on November 28, our First Sabbath of Advent. We will incorporate the spirit of Francis' prayer, rewritten to more honestly reflect the theology of the times. And we will concentrate our efforts on how this coming year's readings reflect the call for mercy in today's world.

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### JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY PRAYER, *Therese of Divine Peace*

Holy Jesus,  
you who taught us mercy and compassion,  
we are weary and sick at heart as we look  
at faces of fear and hate and vengeance in our world today.  
We want to be freed of our inertia,  
as Zacchaeus was freed when he shimmied down the tree;  
freed of our mimetic desires,  
as Matthew was freed when he walked away from his coffers of cash;  
freed from degradation,  
as the woman was freed when the townsmen put down their stones  
and walked away in shame.  
We want to be as faithful and loving as Miriam of Nazareth  
and Mary of Magdala;  
as repentant and forgiving as Peter and Paul;  
as humble and merciful as the woman at the well  
and the good thief on the cross.  
We do believe, O Lord, but we beg you to help our unbelief!  
For we are the visible face of God in our world,  
priests and prophets by virtue of our common baptism  
in the dust of the fiery stars and the dust of the good earth,  
birthed through the watery wombs of mighty seas  
and consecrated in the tears of God's grieving Spirit among us.  
We are your sisters and brothers,  
a graced people,  
called and chosen to lead and to follow,  
to feed and to forgive,  
to imitate your example of the fullness of life in caring humility,  
in faith and hope and love.  
May it be so, we pray, amen.