

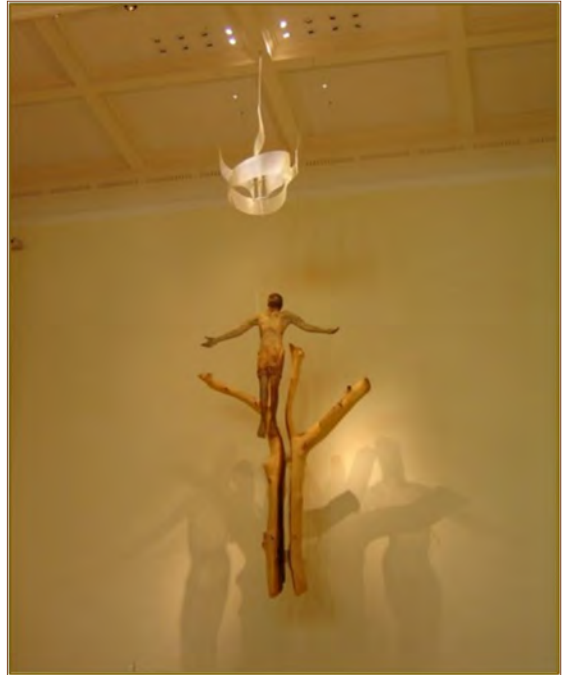
Who do you say that I am?

Easter Alleluia

Jesus is Risen, death's conqueror!

To the Risen giver of life,
To the Risen giver of love,
To the Risen guide for the future,
Praise and thanks to God!
Praise and thanks for new life,
Praise and thanks for new love,
Praise and thanks for renewed future,
Thanks be to God.

Philip Fox, cited on Jamberoo Abbey Facebook page



As we continue to celebrate the Resurrection, where we come to see that Jesus is the Son of God who conquered death and rose again, there is value in reflecting on how we come to know about the God we believe in. Our sacred scriptures are a rich source of insight into the Trinity. The Old Testament passage below, from Isaiah (55:6-13) provides a beautiful insight into God's mercy and generosity:

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall
my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah (55:6-13)

As you reflect on the Old Testament—so many writings from so long ago—what images and impressions do you have of how God is presented there?

This passage mentions the mercy of God, a God who has a purpose for creation and for us, and longs for joyfulness for us and all of creation.

Who do you say that I am?

There are occasions in the gospels where the identity of Jesus arises in his discussions with others, especially those close to him who may have had a better chance to really appreciate who Jesus was.

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' They answered, 'John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.' He said to them, '**But who do you say that I am?**' Peter answered, '**The Messiah of God.**'

Luke 19:18-20

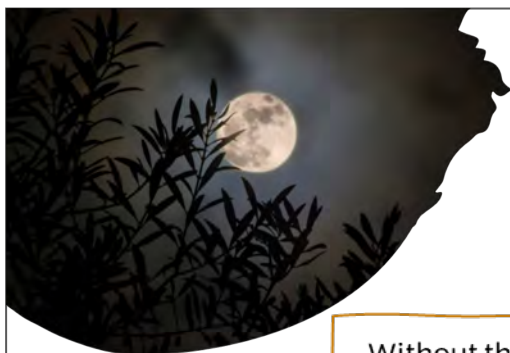
Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, '**I am the resurrection and the life.** Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, **I believe that you are the Messiah**, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

John 11:24-27

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**

1 John 4:7-8

Catherine's faith...



Without the cross,
the real crown
cannot come. Some
great things which
he designs to
accomplish would
have been too much
without a little bitter
in the cup.

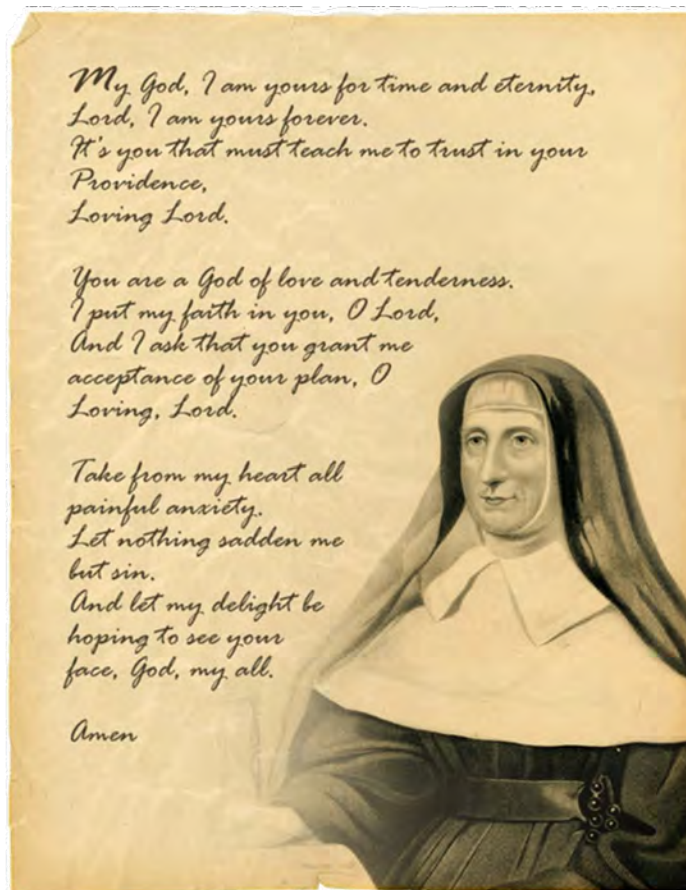


Garden Song

Mary Wickham rsm

In two gardens may you meet him,
But not one without the other, ever.
Although Thursday's moonlight
Edges the olive leaves,
The darkness augments
Here in this anguish place,
His figure bowed by the weight of the world
And the wood.
The second is Sunday's,
Where grief's refuge, numbness,
accompanies the dawn until the word is spoken -
Life's triumphant, simple token:
The name, the pledge, 'Mary'.

<https://marywickhamrsm.org.au/poem/garden-song/>



Catherine's

Suscipe

Her prayer of offering of her life, herself, to God.

Image: <https://sistersofmercy.org/resource/the-suscipe-of-catherine-mcauley/>

What is it about Catherine's faith that draws you and inspires you?
How does her faith guide your life and prayer as a Mercy Associate?

According to the teachings of Catherine McAuley, we should not consider our journey to be a sacrifice, a suffering, but rather a sublime commitment to the impoverished of the world, because in this way, **we are serving Jesus himself**. We will be better peacemakers if, right now, we are more empathetic, supportive, loving, humble and friendly, and if we are sources of hope, warmth, wisdom and kindness, with a gentle piety and compassion for the impoverished. If all this is reflected and recognized in our behaviour, we are a living example, just as Catherine was.

Mavila Mercedes Esteves Arévalo, Mercy Associate, The Americas

If we look closely we will find Jesus rising in our lives.

The signs may not be obvious and will require a moment's reflection, but if we look in the right place we will find him risen in our midst.

Mary Coloe PBVM

(cited from WATAC on Facebook)