

Sunday Prayer at Home
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)



Introduction and Act of Repentance



Presider:

In our gospel, Jesus makes it clear that if we want God to forgive us, we must forgive others. We know just how hard it is sometimes to forgive others. But we also know how good it feels to be forgiven. So, let us turn to Jesus our Teacher now, and pray to him in the light of his teaching today [Pause]

Lord Jesus, you have taught us that there must be no limit to the times we are ready to forgive. Lord, have mercy

You have assured us of the boundless mercy of God, Christ, have mercy

You expect us to forgive others in a wholehearted and not a grudging way. Lord, have mercy

Opening Prayer

Let us pray (that God will keep us faithful in serving him)

Merciful Father, our Maker and Guide, may we serve you with all our mind, heart, soul and strength, and experience your mercy and forgiveness in our lives. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: AMEN

Reader: A reading from the book of Sirach (17.30-28.7)

In refusing to forgive those who have sinned against us, we exclude ourselves from the mercy and forgiveness of God for our own sins

Anger and wrath, these are abominations, yet a sinner holds on to them. The vengeful will face the Lord's vengeance, for he keeps a strict account of their sins. Forgive your neighbour the wrong that is done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray. Does anyone harbour anger against another, and expect healing from the Lord? If one has no mercy towards another like oneself, can one then seek pardon for one's own sins? If a mere mortal harbours wrath, who will make an atoning sacrifice for that one's sins? Remember the end of your life, and set enmity aside; remember corruption and death, and be true to the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not be angry with your neighbour. Remember the Covenant of the Most High, and overlook faults.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

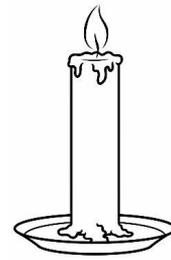
All:

My soul, give thanks to God
All my being, bless God's holy name
My soul, give thanks to God
And never forget all God's blessings

It is you, O God, who forgives all our guilt,
who heals every one of our ills
Who redeems our life from the grave
Who crowns us with love and compassion

Your wrath will come to an end
You will not be angry forever
You do not treat us according to our sins
Nor repay us according to our faults

For as strong as the heavens are high above the earth
So strong is your love for those who fear You
As far as the east is from the west
So far do you remove our sins.



Reader: A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (14: 7-9)

In life and in death, we belong to the Lord

My brothers and sisters, we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (18:21-35)

Jesus insists that we be prepared to give others the generous forgiveness which God gives us

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if a brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ The Lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Faith-sharing:

Reflect on a time when you felt wronged.

- What happened?
- How did you feel?

- How did you react to the offender?
- Were you able to forgive that person and move on?



Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: We turn in prayer to our merciful God, who is ready to forgive all our wrongs, and show us his mercy and compassion .

Reader:

For Christians everywhere. May they show the rest of the world their readiness to forgive all hurts and wrongs done to them. (Pause) Lord, hear us

For leaders of Church and State. May they forgive with humility and understanding, those colleagues who let them down. (Pause) Lord, hear us

For those who have been seriously hurt and are struggling to forgive their offenders. (Pause) Lord, hear us

For children in our parishes: that we may all work collaboratively to ensure the happiness and confidence of every child, and foster an environment of safety and protection where children flourish. (Pause) Lord, hear us

For everyone we know. May the grace of God heal us of all resentment and bitterness. (Pause) Lord, hear us

For those who find themselves in the midst of family feuds. May forgiveness, peace, and harmony be quickly restored. [Pause] Lord, hear us.

For those who are restless from all the restrictions of the current pandemic. May they find meaning, purpose and peace, within their frustration and pain. [Pause] Lord, hear us.

Parish Prayer

God, Creator and Life-giver we thank you for the gift of one another in our Parish of St Paul Apostle. Bless us and our families with the power of your

Spirit. Inspired and motivated by St Paul's courage and commitment to the person of Christ, may we continue to be open to change and challenge!
Make us passionate and courageous in our mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Presider:

Gracious God! Grant that we who are always in need of your mercy, and who love to receive it, may be generous in showing mercy to our fellow human beings. We ask this through Christ our Lord .

(All) Amen

Anima Christi Prayer (Spiritual Communion)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus hear me;
Within your wounds hide me;
From all harm protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And close to you bid me;
So that with your saints,
I may praise you forever and ever. Amen



CONCLUSION

Leader: May the Lord bless us, keep us from evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Go and tell the good news of Jesus to everyone everywhere

All: Thanks be to God

St Paul Apostle Catholic Community
Endeavour Hills VIC
Produced by Brian Gleeson CP
Email: bgleesoncp@gmail.com
Biblical translation: NRSV