

Prayer at Home
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 13, 2020

Notes/Instructions

- This may be prayed alone or as a family depending on how many people are in your home.
- You may gather at your kitchen table or at a prayer space in your home.
- Individuals may take turns proclaiming the readings.
- If you have a candle, family Bible, crucifix, etc., you may place them in the middle of your table/prayer space.
- If you have never led prayer before, do not worry. God always appreciates our efforts.
- You may remain seated for the entire prayer, but if you have children it may be helpful to stand for the Gather, Gospel Reading, and Sending Forth. If you are able, you may wish to kneel to pray the Spiritual Communion together.

Gather

Prayer Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you
with all our heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Listen

First Reading: A reading from the Book of Sirach.
(*call to forgiveness and mercy*)

(Sirach 27: 30-28: 7)

Wrath and anger are hateful things,
yet the sinner hugs them tight.
The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance,
for he remembers their sins in detail.
Forgive your neighbor's injustice;
then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.
Could anyone nourish anger against another
and expect healing from the LORD?
Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself,
can he seek pardon for his own sins?
If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath,

who will forgive his sins?
Remember your last days, set enmity aside;
remember death and decay, and cease from sin!
Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor;
remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12)

Our response is: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He will not always chide,
nor does he keep his wrath forever.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Second Reading: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. (Romans 14: 7-9)
(to live and die for Christ)

Brothers and sisters:
None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.
For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord;
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Link to the Gospel Video for Children: <https://youtu.be/ED3fzkS-bhA>

Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. (Matthew 18: 21-35)
(the merciless official)

Peter approached Jesus and asked him,
“Lord, if my brother sins against me,
how often must I forgive?
As many as seven times?”
Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.
That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king
who decided to settle accounts with his servants.
When he began the accounting,
a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount.
Since he had no way of paying it back,
his master ordered him to be sold,
along with his wife, his children, and all his property,
in payment of the debt.
At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said,
‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’
Moved with compassion the master of that servant
let him go and forgave him the loan.
When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants

who owed him a much smaller amount.
He seized him and started to choke him, demanding,
'Pay back what you owe.'
Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him,
'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'
But he refused.
Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison
until he paid back the debt.
Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened,
they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master
and reported the whole affair.
His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant!
I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to.
Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant,
as I had pity on you?'
Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers
until he should pay back the whole debt.
So will my heavenly Father do to you,
unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Key Passage: Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord if another member of the church 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." (Matthew 18: 21-22)

Reflection Questions

Adult: When someone hurts you, are you more inclined to be just or to be merciful?

Child: When have you forgiven someone who treated you unfairly?

Prayer Leader: Uniting our prayers as one we pray together the words Jesus gave us:
Our Father . . .

Spiritual Communion

(Pray this prayer together)

Prayer Leader: Let us pray.

All: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there

and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Sending Forth

Prayer Leader: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit come down on us and remain on us forever. **Amen.**