



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
13th September 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

All: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: Last week we heard the Lord talking about "putting things right" when someone sins against us. This week he continues that teaching, emphasising that the most important thing to do is to forgive, just as God forgives us. As we prepare to hear his teaching about God's mercy, let us think of our own faults and failings and ask for his generous forgiveness.

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Gloria

A: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening prayer

L: Let us pray.

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.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled

the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

This is a Gospel of exaggerations! "Seventy times seven" is a ridiculous number, not to be taken seriously: does Jesus really mean that we forgive someone 490 times, and then refuse to have mercy on the 491st? It simply means "Never stop forgiving." Similarly, the parable Jesus tells has a ridiculous exaggeration – the sum the first servant owes is 10,000 talents: lots of estimates can be found to work out what this would equal in modern money – anything between £3 billion and £7 billion! Obviously this is a debt that can never be repaid. This is what Jesus says our sins are like – a debt we owe to God that we can never hope to repay. But God's mercy not only forgives but wipes out the debt! The 100 denarii, on the other hand, is still

a significant amount, though much less – perhaps about £10,000. This is what other people owe us – which we should forgive. Letting someone off a debt of £10,000 is not easy! Perhaps forgiveness is even harder!

A Thought for our Younger Friends

When you say the “Our Father” you say: “forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us”: this means “God, forgive us, because we forgive other people,” and this is what Jesus is talking about in the Gospel. Can you think of someone you need to forgive? How hard is it? Ask Jesus to help you!

If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to discuss what this Gospel passage means to you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Scriptures today.

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions

L: Let us think of our prayers for this Sunday.

L: In this season of Creation, we pray that we may think about the way we use the resources of the earth. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the strength to forgive our enemies and seek reconciliation. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for people who cannot forgive, who are consumed by hatred and seek only vengeance. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family

members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants' prayers, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, you do not cease to spur us on to possess a more abundant life and, being rich in mercy, you constantly offer pardon and call on sinners to trust in your forgiveness alone. Never did you turn away from us, and, though time and again we have broken your covenant, you have bound the human family to yourself through Jesus your Son, our Redeemer, with a new bond of love so tight that it can never be undone. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that

I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

A: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

L: My soul, give thanks to the Lord all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

A: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

L: It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

A: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

L: His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults.

A: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

A: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✕ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!