



USC Caruso
Catholic Center

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Family Prayer Service

Presider: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

All: 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,

(striking your breast, say:)

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;

(Then continue with:)

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.

Opening Prayer:

Presider:

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.

All: Amen

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Sirach:

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (8)

R. 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.

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

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

R. 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.

R. 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.

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

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

Romans 14:7-9

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

Alleluia:

John 13:34

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew:

Matthew 18:21-35

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

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:

by Fr. Joe Kim, OFM Conv.

Homi-flection for the Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's scriptures are about forgiveness. In the Gospel, Peter asks Jesus a question that perhaps we have all asked one time or another: "How often must I forgive, as many as seven times?" Jesus answers this question: "not seven times, but seventy-seven times." To truly understand this exchange between Peter & Jesus, we need to understand the meaning of their words, for it is not a numerical value.

The Jews in the time of Jesus had of way of speaking that indicated an increase of value by repeating words. As an example: to indicate something large, they might say "big." To indicate something bigger than that, they would say "big, big". To indicate something bigger than that, "big, big, big." Understanding this, Peter's answer is not just a stingy mere seven times, but instead, at that time of Jesus, the number seven was considered a perfect number. Peter is actually asking if they need to forgive *perfectly* or *all the time*. In reply, Jesus reinforces and highlights the importance of forgiveness by increasing the "perfectly" or "all the time" answer of seven to seventy-seven times or "perfectly, perfectly."

Why is forgiveness so important? Why is it more than just a numerical action? Jesus gives us this parable of the servant who is forgiven a great debt, but unable to forgive a fellow worker a much smaller one to answer this question. Forgiveness is not just about the chances we give the other or ourselves. Forgiveness is important because it allows us to be transformed by the compassion and love shown to us. This was why the king was angry at the servant whom he had just forgiven the large debt. The servant did not allow that undeserved mercy and compassion to change him - which is why he acted in the way he did to his fellow servant. Why must we always forgive "seventy-seven times?" Not only is it God's love made manifest in our relationship with him, but it gifts us the opportunity to be transformed into who God is and who he calls us to be.

It is no accident that the sacrament of Reconciliation is just that - a sacrament of *grace*. In the same way the sacrament of the Eucharist gifts us the grace of "becoming what we receive / One Body of Christ," the sacrament of Reconciliation gifts us that same grace. May we all recognize the gift and allow the grace of forgiveness and love transform our lives!

- **When was the last time you went to confession? How often do you allow yourself to partake of this gift and opportunity of love and grace?**
- **Are there people in your life that you have yet to forgive or ask for forgiveness from? Why and why not?**
- **Have you allowed the action of forgiving and being forgiven to transform your heart and relationships to love and be loved more deeply and authentically?**

Nicene Creed:

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Presider: Let us raise our hearts and voices in prayer to God.

Intercessions:

1. For our Church and parish community, that we may share willingly and justly all that God has given us with the poor and those in need:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

2. For Pope Francis, Archbishop Jose Gomez, Fr. Richard and all who serve the Church, that they may joyfully preach the Gospel of the Resurrection:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

3. For the leaders of nations, states, and cities, that they may work to establish the justice and mercy of God through all the earth:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

4. For families and communities suffering from division, alienation, and estrangement, that they may put aside anger and hate and seek together forgiveness and reconciliation:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

5. For the sick, suffering, abused and dying, that the kindness and compassion of God may shine upon them:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

6. For the faithful who have died, that Christ may claim their souls for the kingdom of the Father:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

Presider:

Lord God, may these prayers be our first step in removing anger and hatred from our world and bringing your limitless love and unconditional forgiveness into our homes, our schools, our parish, and our community. We make these prayers to you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

Our Father:

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

All:

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

Sign of Peace:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Presider:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All:

And with your spirit.

Presider:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

Spiritual Communion:

All: I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

Closing Prayer:

Presider:

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

All: Amen