



Praying at Home this Sunday

September 13, 2020

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
(All briefly call to mind their sins, praising God for his mercy.)

Leader: Lord Jesus, you show us the way of compassion:
 Lord, have mercy. **Response: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Christ Jesus, heal our ills and free us from sin:
 Christ have mercy. **Response: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
 Lord have mercy. **Response: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Let us pray: (Pause)

O God most high, you are slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Keep alive in us the memory of your mercy, that our angers may be calmed
 and our resentments dispelled.

May we discover the forgiveness promised to those who forgive
 and become a people rich in mercy.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

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. **R. Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

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.
He redeems your life from destruction,
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

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. **R. Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia

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

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. **R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Discussion Questions:

1. (Sirach) Is there wrath or anger you have been hanging onto that you're ready to let go of with God's help?
2. (Sirach) Where is there a relationship in our life that you would like to heal or strengthen?
3. (Matthew) How do you understand Jesus' words, to forgive "from the heart"?
4. (Matthew) What has helped you when you found it difficult to forgive others from the harm they had done?

Sample Intercessions:

1. For the church, may it be a fountain of mercy and a beacon of forgiveness, illuminating the darkness of sin and callings sinners home: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For elected officials and those who hold public office, may they safeguard the rights of prisoners, offering opportunities for restorative justice and rehabilitation: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For farmers and workers as they harvest their crops, may they be preserved from injury and filled with thanksgiving for God's bounty: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For all affected by the recent fires, may they receive the assistance that they need to rebuild their lives: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For all who are sick, especially those with the corona virus: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
6. For all of us, formed by the word of God, may we resolve to bring God's mercy and love to the areas of our society where it is most needed: We pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray together as Jesus taught:

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.

Closing Prayer:

Good and gracious God, you desire to bring all people to yourself that your mercy and forgiveness might redeem the world. Hear our prayers that having received the gift of your compassion, we might go forth to bring it to others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sign of the Cross +