

# Dining Room Prayer Time

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

“MERCY”

*Child/teen to lead by following purple instructions and reading the blue instructions.*

## Setup Sacred space

*Before the prayer. Spend 20 minutes collecting 3 or 4 items to set up the sacred space. Such as a candle, cross, image and flower or some greenery. Set this up on the dining table in your house. Choose a time that everyone can come together. You will also need colouring-in-pencils for the prayer. Print this worksheet for each person in your house. Ask an adult to light the candle at the start.*

## 1. Start

Let us put ourselves in God’s presence by focusing on our breathing.

Breath in..... Breath out..... *(repeat this 4 times)*

As we light the candle we make the sign of the cross.

**ALL** – “In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”

## Ask a different

### 2. Gospel

Matthew Chapter 18 verse 21 to 35

**TWO** Child/teen to read -

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."

### 3. Gospel Reflection

Child/teen to read -

The Gospel today is not simply about money or the debts people owe each other. Often when Jesus teaches he uses tools like metaphors and symbols to represent other things. The master here represents God. A God who sees all things. Even when we do not think God can see what we are doing, God can see us. Do we realise God is always with us? God wants us to see like he sees.

Jesus also teaches about Mercy. Mercy is love which is not expected. Jesus wants us to be a people of mercy. Not simply to receive mercy, but to give mercy. We must let go of the things which hold us back. Our own possessions. Our own preconceived ideas about the ways things should be. Mercy comes when we look with

the eyes of love. Do we look at life with our head? Do we look with the eyes of our heart? This takes transformation of heart. This takes conversion with our actions.

The passage ends with a piece of karma. If you do bad, bad will come our way. Jesus is warning us. That warning is not meant to frighten us. Rather, to show us the nature of life. This is not to say that badness will not come, but that the badness has the opportunity to transform us. Mercy has the potential to change our hearts but also the hearts of other people. Are we are a people focused on money or mercy?

### 4. Second Reading

Child/teen to read the Gospel a second time

### 5. Colour

Colour in the following picture



## 6. Questions

Spend a few minutes completing the following questions, write and the discuss.

1. What is the Gospel passage about?
2. What does the master symbolise?
3. What is mercy?
4. How can we show mercy?
5. Can you think of a time when someone showed you mercy?
6. Is it hard to show mercy? Why?
7. (parents) – how has your heart (or ways of seeing things) been changed over the years?

## 7. Prayers of the Faithful

We ask that God receives the following prayers:

A. We pray we might let go of the things which hold us back from loving each other and showing mercy. Lord hear us.

**ALL** : Lord hear our prayer.

B. We pray mercy might live in our hearts. Lord hear us.

**ALL** : Lord hear our prayer.

C. Does anyone else have a prayer they would like to share? ..... *PAUSE*.....

**ALL** : Lord hear our prayer.

## 8. Final Prayer

Dear God we ask that you receive all our prayers as we pray the Our Father together.

**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 sins. As we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

As we blow the candle out we ask that God remains with us.

We make the sign of the cross.

**ALL** – “In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”