



Liturgy Cycle A

# Tenth Sunday Of The Year

## The Friend Of Sinners

### **Introduction**

Today we have the extraordinary scene of Jesus eating and drinking with sinners and outcasts. We are gathered around the table of Christ, not because we think we are better or more deserving than others, but because we know we are sinners, sinners who need his healing and forgiveness.

### **First Reading (Hosea 6:3-6)**

What God wants from his people is not their sacrifices, but their love, a love that is genuine and which doesn't disappear with the morning dew.

### **Second Reading (Romans 4: 18-25)**

Abraham's faith in God should serve as a model for our faith in Christ.

### **Gospel (Matthew 9: 9-13)**

Jesus shocks the religious leaders by eating and drinking with sinners, and calling one of them to be an apostle.

### **Prayer of the faithful**

Let us pray that the practice of our religion may make us better human beings, and thereby more genuine followers of Christ.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That Christians may be more tolerant towards those who are different from them, and more forgiving towards those who offend them. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all government leaders: that they may be open-hearted and fraternal, eager to avail of every opportunity to heal old wounds and divisions. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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**For all the rejects and outcasts of our society: that the followers of Christ may show special care and concern for them. Lord, hear us.**

**R: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**That the consciousness of our own sins and weaknesses may make us humble and more understanding in our dealings with others. Lord, hear us.**

**R: Lord, graciously hear us.**

#### **Communion Reflection**

**In India the untouchable were those who did not belong to any caste. They were barred from entering the temples. In cities they were confined to the slums and did only the most menial jobs. In the country they were forbidden to use the wells.**

**Yet it was precisely the untouchables whom the great Mahatma Gandhi befriended. When he entered a village he would ask: 'Where are your untouchables? I want to stay with them.' He touched them. He ate and drank with them, and played with their children.**

**He once said:  
'I do not want to be reborn. But if that should happen, I would like to find myself among the untouchables in order to share the suffering and insults they are subjected to. In this way, perhaps I would have the chance to liberate them and myself from their miserable condition.'**