



Liturgy Cycle A

Twenty-Fourth Sunday Of The Year Forgiveness

Introduction

The theme of this liturgy is clear and straightforward: we must forgive others if we wish God to forgive us. We know how hard it can be to forgive. At the same time we know how lovely it is to be forgiven.

First reading (Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7)

Desire for revenge and refusal to forgive those who have hurt us make us unworthy of God's forgiveness and mercy.

Second Reading (Romans 14:7-9)

The living and dying of a Christian, that is to say his entire existence, is for Christ and for others.

Gospel (Matthew 18:21-35)

This contains the story of a man who was very good at begging mercy for himself, but was very poor at extending mercy to others.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Jesus came among us to bring us the good news of the Father's forgiveness. We pray for the grace to be able to forgive, so that we may experience the joy of being forgiven.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christians may realize that to practice any kind of vendetta is totally against the Gospel of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those in authority: that they may forgive with humility and understanding all those who fail them. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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For all those prodigals who are still away from home: that they may return to God and so rejoice in his forgiveness. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may trust in the greatness of God's forgiveness, and share it generously with all those who have offended us in any way. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

Forgives works the miracle of change.

When Abraham Lincoln was asked why he did not destroy his enemies, he replied, 'If I make my enemies my friend, do I not thereby destroy them?'

The art of forgiveness consists in having a humble spirit.

When you forgive you change yourself and other people as well.

You free yourself from the burden of bitterness, and you lose others from the chain of guilt.

Forgiveness works two ways: you must forgive in order to be forgiven.

Those who cannot forgive break down the bridge over which they themselves must pass, for everybody needs to be forgiven.

Forgiveness should start now.

Putting it off only deepens the wound.

Clinging to bitterness postpones happiness.

Life is short, time is fleeting.

Today is the day to forgive.