



Liturgy Cycle B

# Seventh Sunday Of The Year

## Forgiveness Of Sins

### Introduction

At the heart of today's liturgy is the good news that God forgives the sins of his people. The first reading declared: "Your sins I will remember no more". And in the gospel we find: "The Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins". We all need this forgiveness.

### First Reading (Isaiah 43: 18-19,21-22, 24-25)

Isaiah tells the people that God is going to give them fresh demonstration of his love and care. Their past sins will be blotted out.

### Second Reading (2 Cor 1: 18-22)

St Paul declares himself to be a man of his world. He is conscious that he represents Christ, who is fidelity itself.

### Gospel (Mark 2: 1-12)

Christ declares that he has authority to forgive sins, proves it by curing a paralysed man.

### Prayer Of The Faithful

Jesus came to bring us the good news of the Father's forgiveness. Let us pray that we may believe and live this good news.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the disciples of Jesus: that having experienced his forgiveness in their own lives they may set an example for the world in forgiving those who offend them. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those in positions of power: that they may be gentle and merciful in the exercise of their authority. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.



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For all those who are handicapped in body or mind: and for those who through sin are crippled in spirit: that the Lord may bring them hope. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

The crippled, once cured, carried his own bed away. That we may be able to accept responsibility for our own sins, and carry our own burdens instead of placing them on others. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

### Communion Reflection

Forgiveness is the answer  
to the child's dream of miracle.  
Through forgiveness  
what is broken is made whole again,  
what is soiled is made clean,  
what is lost is found.

Nothing greater can happen to a human being  
that he or she is forgiven.  
A person is no longer trapped in his past.  
He is set free-  
free to love again,  
free to move forward again.

Forgiveness is unconditional  
or it is not forgiveness at all.  
Can one forgive oneself?  
No, it doesn't work.  
We have to be forgiven.  
But we can only believe that this is possible  
if we ourselves are able to forgive.

These words of Christ:  
"Your sins are forgiven, go in peace",  
are among the most wonderful in the Gospel.