



Celebrating Liturgy of the Word with Family 24th Sunday Ordinary Time

Preparation – allow some time to prepare

- Read through the outline beforehand
- Arrange seating and set a prayer focus in the centre. Include candles, cross, children's art
- Open links. Beginning, psalm, 'homily' after the gospel, and at the end.
- Share the reader role. Encourage your readers to practice beforehand and pause for commas and full-stops. Don't correct children as they are reading or during the Liturgy.

Light candles. SIGN OF THE CROSS: Ki te ingoa... Tēnā Koutou Katoa. Welcome. Today is the 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time and this week is te wiki o te reo Māori – Māori language week. Today we hear about mercy and forgiveness – atawhai me murua. Also, in this month of September, Pope Francis wants families to think more about how strongly we are connected to nature. Let us take a few moments to be remember that we are One.

SONG: E te Ariki https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tyMVnO_N3Y

READER: We pray;

You have made it possible for us to live on a beautiful planet, Lord have mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

You have made it possible for us to live in families and communities, Christ have mercy

(All) Christ have mercy

You have made us need the earth and all it produces so we can live, Lord have mercy,

(All) Lord have mercy

Reader Look at the pictures for a few moments.

'Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature.'

A Prayer for our Earth

DISCUSS: The prayer says, we are 'united with every creature.' What does that mean? Use the photos to explain.



COLLECT/OPENING PRAYER: Thank you for your ideas. Let's remember the things we want to pray about. *(Allow silence - 1 minute)*

Loving God, even though you rule over all things, you look at us with great kindness. Help us to understand how kind you are, so we can be kind to others. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

READING: Sirach 27:30 -28:7 Good News Translation

Reader 1 Anger and a hot temper are horrible things, but sinners have both.

Reader 2 The Lord is taking note of your sins, and if you take vengeance on someone, the Lord will take vengeance on you.

Reader 1 But if you forgive someone who has wronged you, your sins will be forgiven when you pray.

Reader 2 You cannot expect the Lord to pardon you while you are holding a grudge against someone else.

Reader 1 You yourself are a sinner, and if you won't forgive another person, you have no right to pray that the Lord will forgive your sins.

Reader 2 If you cannot get rid of your anger, you have no hope of forgiveness—you are only a human being.

Reader 1 Think about it! Some day you will die, and your body will decay. So give up hate and live by the Lord's commands, the commands in the covenant of the Most High.

Reader 2 Instead of getting upset over your neighbor's faults, overlook them.

The Word of the Lord – **Ko te kupu a te Ariki**

ALL: Thanks be to God – **Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

Silence – *Let's be quiet for a few moments and let God's Word settle inside us.*

Discuss: What does 'holding a grudge' mean?

REFLECTION: *Join in (sing and dance)-You Forgive Me (Fun Factory)* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LO-2fm7lKcU>

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35 Good News Translation

Reader 1 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?"

Reader 2 "No, not seven times," answered Jesus, "but seventy times seven because the Kingdom of heaven is like this.

Reader 1 Once there was a king who decided to check on his servants' accounts. He had just begun to do so when one of them was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. The servant did not have enough to pay his debt, so the king ordered him to be sold as a slave, with his wife and his children and all that he had, in order to pay the debt. The servant fell on his knees before the king. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay you everything!' The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave him the debt and let him go.

Reader 2 "Then the man went out and met one of his fellow servants who owed him a few dollars. He grabbed him and started choking him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he said. His fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!' But he refused; instead, he had him thrown into jail until he should pay the debt.

Reader 1 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset and went to the king and told him everything.

Reader 2 So he called the servant in. 'You worthless slave!' he said. 'I forgave you the whole amount you owed me, just because you asked me to. You should have had mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you.'

Reader 1 The king was very angry, and he sent the servant to jail to be punished until he should pay back the whole amount."

Reader 2 And Jesus concluded, "That is how my Father in heaven will treat every one of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord - **Ko te rongopai a te Ariki**

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ - **Kia whakanuia rā koe e Hēhu Karaiti.**

After the reading - silence. Let some words go over and over in your mind.

6 minute homily by 'Douglas' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cG_WLYUN_Hw&t=333s

Discuss: What is Douglas's message? What is the message of the readings?

Prayer of the Faithful – Let's pray for the needs of other people and the world.

For the Church – that we will be kind and forgiving people reaching out toward others.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For world leaders – that they focus their power and energy on creating peace.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For an end to the Covid-19 pandemic – that refugees and people living in poverty will be protected.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For Aotearoa New Zealand in this election year – that people think carefully about who they vote for.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For an integral ecology – that as families we talk about the wellbeing and interconnectedness of all life.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For the each of us here now – that we forgive people who have hurt us.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

Confirm, O God, in unity and truth the Church you gather in Christ. Encourage the fervent, enlighten the doubtful, and bring back the wayward. Bind us together in mutual love, that our prayer in Christ's name may be pleasing to you. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever... Amen

READER: Let's pray this prayer for our Earth, then the Our Father.

A Prayer for our Earth (someone reads the text) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XI5onAPurZs&t=43s>

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.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

COLLECTION: READER: Something that Christian people do is support people who need help. There are lots of people who need help. Let's talk about who needs help and what we could do to help them?

Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your participation in today's Liturgy of the Word. Let us go in peace to love and serve God. Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you.

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG: Love song to the Earth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAJu0353w9l&t=71s>

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Resource: Forgive one Another https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZ_wCZ1gPN4