

**The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time      Year A**

Sunday September 11, 2011

Readings: 1) Ezekiel 33:7-9    2) Romans 13:8-10    3) Matthew 18:15-20

**The focus for today's Mass is that we are called to forgive others as our Father in heaven forgives us. As followers of Jesus we are called to forgive others as God forgives us. Often it is easier to ask for and accept forgiveness than it is to forgive others for wrongs they have committed or debts they owe. Let us live as prayerful and forgiving people, ever-mindful of the love, mercy and forgiveness that God has shown us.**

**In Today's Liturgy of the Word,**

Today's first reading says we are to set aside anger and forgive our neighbors if we expect God to do this for us.

In the second reading, Paul exhorts us to do all we do for the sake of the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about forgiving debts, and teaches us to forgive wrongdoers from our heart.

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS****PRIEST:**

Let us offer our prayers for the Church and the world to God, who is loving and merciful.:

**For the Church as it continues to serve as an effective sign and instrument of God's love, mercy and forgiveness in the world.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For all those affected by terrorist attacks**

**As they struggle to find peace and healing through their faith, and a willingness to forgive.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For farmers and gardeners in our area**

**as they strive for bountiful harvests,**

**so no one goes hungry.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For the sick,**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For those who have died,**

**Especially Steven Fuller and Louise Rose**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For our parish,**

**as we strive to live in peace and fellowship with one another.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For our own personal intentions, ..... (long pause),**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**PRIEST:**

**Almighty God, we praise you for the gifts of your mercy and love.**

**Hear our prayers today, which we ask through Christ our Lord.**

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