
TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

13th September 2026

Vestment Colour: Green

Vocations Awareness Week

The Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh has a website that contains further resources, information and plans for Children's Liturgy for use by Children's Liturgy Leaders. A full template is available on the website.

Health & Safety: *Once you are all assembled, take a head count in case of the need to evacuate (if possible, roster of names). Candles are permitted if they are included in your risk assessment.*

Introduction:

Leader: Today, we are reminded that if we want God to forgive us, then we must forgive others with all our hearts.

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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.

All: Amen

The Gospel Acclamation: All stand to welcome the Gospel. (*You can encourage the children to sing the Alleluia*).

Alleluia, alleluia.

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

Alleluia.

Alternatively use (*Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It'*)

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord, Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,

As we listen to the story, let us praise him for his glory.

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

Gospel: Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary (Year A). Alternatively use an approved translation of the Bible (the ESV-CE version or Good News Bible for Children). *Do not paraphrase the Gospel; however, you may need to explain unusual or difficult words and names to the children.*

Matthew 18: 21-35

Leader: "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew".

All: "Glory to You, O Lord."

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

Leader: "The Gospel of the Lord".

All reply: "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ". Ask everyone to be seated.

Gospel Reflection: *the following are some suggestions to help with a discussion around the Gospel.*

What did you hear in the Gospel today?

What did Peter ask Jesus? (Peter asked how many times he should forgive someone who hurt him. He asked if he should forgive as much as seven times).

What did Jesus say? (Jesus replied that Peter should not limit his forgiveness to seven times but rather forgive “seventy times seven!”)

Do you think Jesus wants us to count the exact number of times we forgive? (No - Jesus gave this reply to show that you should not put a limit on your forgiveness as God does not limit His forgiveness).

What happened to the servant who owed the king a lot of money? What did the King want to do so that he could have his money repaid? (The King said that he would sell the servant and his wife and family as slaves to repay the money owed).

What happened next? (The man fell on his knees and begged the King for mercy and to be patient saying he would repay all he owed).

What did the King do? (The king felt sorry for the man and forgave him, cancelled all his debt, and told him that he did not need to pay anything that he owed).

What happened next? (The servant met another servant who owed him money and instead of forgiving him like the King forgave him, he had him put in prison till he paid all that he owed him).

What happened when the King found out? (That’s right- the king was very angry!)

Why was the King so angry? (The King was angry because he had forgiven the servant, but the servant did not forgive his fellow servant. The servant was shown forgiveness but would not forgive others. This made the King so angry that he sent the bad servant to prison to be punished).

Today we learned about God’s forgiveness and how we must truly forgive those who hurt or offend us if we hope to be forgiven by God. In the words of the prayer the Our Father we pray:

“Forgive us our trespasses **as we forgive those who trespass against us.**”

So, if we want complete forgiveness from God, we need to remember to forgive others completely and from our heart as we would like God to forgive us.

Prayers of the Faithful:

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

We now ask Our Lord to hear our prayer

Lord Jesus

Help us always to show Your forgiveness to others, showing mercy and forgiving others from our hearts.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for Your love and mercy.

Help us to always come to You and ask for forgiveness when we have hurt You by not behaving as we should. Grant us Your forgiveness and give us the grace to try to always be more like You.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, help us to always show Your love to others. May we forgive others as we would like to be forgiven.

All: Amen.