



Living in the Spirit
◆ 7th Sunday Ordinary Time
Give Us Grace to Love & Forgive

Call to Prayer and Sharing

❖ *Invitation to Prayer - Leader*

Let us begin,
Now, here in this place
With a moment of silence, to reflect,
to focus, to be attentive to ourselves,
to one another, and to the presence of Christ.
May the Lord come and increase our faith. (*reflective pause*)
(*pause for Silence*)

❖ *If time allows, sing a familiar hymn or refrain from Sunday's Responsorial Psalm.*

❖ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son . . ."*

The Word of God

❖ *Leader:* Let us welcome God's Word into our hearts.

- *Sing to the melody of "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow".*
Open our minds to, know you Lord;
Open our hearts to, hear your voice;
Open our hearts now, to your Word;
Come to us now, O Lord, our God.

From Matthew 5:38-48 (Love your enemies)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.
But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.
When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well.
If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well.
Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles.
Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

"You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
that you may be children of your heavenly Father,
for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good,
and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.
For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?
Do not the tax collectors do the same?
And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that?
Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

The Word of the Lord...

❖ *At the conclusion of the reading, briefly pause for quiet reflection.*

Faith Sharing/Question of the Week (*consider sharing on either question*)

- ❖ **Adult:** Is it hard for you to "turn the other cheek"? Why?
- ❖ **Mixed Ages:** Do you find it hard to let someone else win in an argument?

For further reflection and discussion

- ❖ How does this influence and affect what we are doing here at this gathering?

Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow a few minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of 3 or 4 for faith sharing.

- ❖ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*

Litany of Faith (response may be sung to God of Day and God of Darkness):

Leader: Christ Jesus, you call us to love unconditionally.

Help us to be perfect as God is perfect.

All: Give us grace to love each other, and the courage to forgive.

Leader: Christ Jesus, you challenge us to break down the walls of division.

Help us to be perfect as God is perfect.

All: Give us grace to love each other, and the courage to forgive.

Leader: Christ Jesus, you command us to always seek out good for each other.

Help us to be perfect as God is perfect.

All: Give us grace to love each other, and the courage to forgive.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious God,

we know that you are with us here,
and we have taken your Word into our hearts.

You call us all to conversion,
we who are here in this place,
and we who are now ready to welcome you into our lives.

We are ready,
we are willing,
and we are yours.

So we surrender to you
our aches and longings into one as we pray:
Our Father...

Continue with the Meeting

Final Blessing

Leader: Now let us bless one another:

All: May God bless and keep us, may God smile upon us.

May God show us kindness, fill us with peace.

And may God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

may we always love and serve,

filled with God's Peace. Amen.

Leader: *Conclude the meeting or sing a closing song.*