



Liturgy of the Word for Individuals, Families & Communities

17th Sunday Ordinary Time *Day of Prayer for Grandparents and elderly*

Prepare a prayer focus and light a candle.

SIGN OF THE CROSS: Ki te ingoa...

READER: Kia noho te Ariki ki a koutou -- The Lord be with you

ALL: Ki tōu wairua anō hoki -- And also with you

READER:

Tēnā Koutou Katoa / Hello and welcome. Today we again ask the question: "Lord teach us to pray," a question the disciples asked after they had watched Jesus praying in a particular place. This is the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, and a day of prayer for Grandparents and the elderly. Let's sing.

Hosea's Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJ2ol-UhTec>

READER: Jesus, you are the one who stands at the door and knocks so that we might make you a welcome guest in the quiet depths of our soul.

You answer us when we call to you

You teach us to pray

Your mercy is without limit

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

(All) Christ have mercy

All) Lord have mercy

OPENING PRAYER: Ka inoi tatou – let us pray. *In this time of silence, we bring to mind all the things we want to pray for, those things which weigh heavily on our hearts. (Allow silence, 1 minute)*

God who listens tenderly to your children, may we seek you in prayer, deepen our hearts and expand our vision. In all things, may we turn to you. May we follow you faithfully, imitating Christ in all we do. Through Jesus our Lord and in the unity of the Holy Spirit we pray.

ALL: Amen

FIRST READING Genesis 18:20-32

A reading from the book of Genesis

In those days, the Lord said: "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave, that I must go down and see whether or not their actions fully correspond to the cry against them that comes to me. I mean to find out."

While Abraham's visitors walked on farther toward Sodom, the Lord remained standing before Abraham.

Then Abraham drew nearer and said:

"Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty?

Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city;

would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it

for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it?

Far be it from you to do such a thing,

to make the innocent die with the guilty

so that the innocent and the guilty would be treated alike!

Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?"

The Lord replied,

"If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom,

I will spare the whole place for their sake."

Abraham spoke up again:

"See how I am presuming to speak to my Lord,

though I am but dust and ashes!

What if there are five less than fifty innocent people?

Will you destroy the whole city because of those five?"

He answered, "I will not destroy it, if I find forty-five there."

But Abraham persisted, saying "What if only forty are found there?"

He replied, "I will forbear doing it for the sake of the forty."

Then Abraham said, "Let not my Lord grow impatient if I go on.

What if only thirty are found there?"

He replied, "I will forbear doing it if I can find but thirty there."

Still Abraham went on,

"Since I have thus dared to speak to my Lord,

what if there are no more than twenty?"

The Lord answered, "I will not destroy it, for the sake of the twenty."

But he still persisted:

"Please, let not my Lord grow angry if I speak up this last time.

What if there are at least ten there?"

He replied, "For the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it."

Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord

ALL: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

Silence – *Let's be quiet for a few moments and let God's Word find a place to rest inside us.*

Discuss - In the light of this reading, how might you describe God's mercy?

PSALM: *Psalm 138* Lord on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Children <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tySQZp-Sms>

Youth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBHy9MIOcYo>

Adults <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnAv85qSaMw>

Second Reading Colossians 2:12-14

A reading from the book of Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

You were buried with him in baptism,

in which you were also raised with him

through faith in the power of God,

who raised him from the dead.

And even when you were dead

in transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh,

he brought you to life along with him,

having forgiven us all our transgressions;

obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims,

which was opposed to us,

he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross

Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord

ALL: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

Silence - *Follow the reading with quiet thinking time.*

Discussion starter – How much does God forgive?

GOSPEL: *Luke 11:1-13*

Reader Kia noho te Ariki - The Lord be with you

All Ki tōu wairua anō hoki – And also with you

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test." And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence. "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

Reader Ko te rongopai a te Ariki – The Gospel of the Lord.
ALL: Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti – Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

After the reading - Silence.

→ **Children's Reflection on the Gospel** – Listen to Douglas explain the Lord's Prayer
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69JT4zsV_uY How much of the Lord's Prayer can you say?

→ **Adults – Youth: Reflection / Discussion** – What is it, you think you most need? How do you ask for it?

Prayer of the Faithful: As God's people we pray for the needs of the whole world.

For the Church – that it may be a people of prayer, and a means by which the needs of the whole world are placed before God.

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

For nations at war – that, with hearts moved by mercy and compassion, leaders of nations will strive for peace, understanding and reconciliation.

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

For Christian unity – that the whole Christian family seeks ways to pray together, and that the Lord's Prayer will be a sign of the unity of all Christians.

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

For older people – that they be a loving and guiding presence in the lives of children and young adults.

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

For Grandparents – that Grandparents will be trustworthy and caring, helping children learn how to be prayerful, compassionate and generous, how to forgive and be forgiven.

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

For ourselves – that we will be open to a change of heart, to our own inner conversion, and to recognising the face of Christ in people who live in the poorest of conditions.

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

For our Common Home – that those suffering the effects of fire, floods or heat-waves will be comforted, that people will respond to Pope Francis call for an integral ecology and work earnestly toward it.

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

Concluding Prayer

Generous and loving Father, with the prayer your Son taught us always on our lips, we ask, we seek, we knock at your door. In our every need, grant us the first and best of all your gifts - the Spirit who makes us your children. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **AMEN**

Reader: World Day for Grandparents and Elderly: You can read Pope Francis' message for World Day for Grandparents and Elderly [here](#) And we pray this prayer of blessing for older people.

"In old age they will still bear fruit" (Ps 92:15)

Blessed are older people

- who accept the grace, dignity and beauty of their years
- who care for themselves, who despite their years, are active in many ways and who look to the future, seeking a new mission.
- who show affectionate concern for their families, children and grandchildren.
- who are attentive to those in great need and offer practical assistance to the poor and suffering.
- who take to heart the concerns and thoughts of others and bless those next to them.
- who regard with tenderness the grandchildren of others, and teach people to regard children with the same understanding and loving gaze with which they regard their own grandchildren.

Blessed are older people who teach peace.

- who hold in their hearts all afflicted by war or famine, who pray for and protect the world.
- who turn not away from the cry of pain of those who suffer.
- who break bread with others.
- who see a sister or brother in every human face.
- who accept the call to be artisans of the *revolution of tenderness* in our world.
- who are the enduring 'chorus' of a great spiritual sanctuary.
- who listen to the Word of God.
- who are poets of prayer, crafting words of friendship in God's presence.
- who cultivate their interior life and grow deeper in prayer.
- who see God Everywhere.

Blessed is the house where an older person lives and the family that honours older people.

Blessed are they who show kindness, care, respect and loving concern for older people.

Blessed are they who see old-age as a season of enduring fruitfulness.

Blessed are they who live a long life for they are living signs of God's abundance.

Amen.

READER: Let's pray the Lord's prayer together. The Lord's Prayer in Te Reo Māori.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oU1GNEVohYY>

Or the Lord's Prayer in English.

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.

Thomas Keating: Thomas Keating was a Trappist Monk who lived from 1923 – 2018. He was a noted teacher of Contemplative Prayer, particularly in the form of Centering Prayer. A large number of his teaching sessions can easily be found online. This short video gives an indication of his teaching on prayer - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VA7A_Xjvr8o&t=88s

READER: Thank you for your participation in this Liturgy of the Word, thank you for your kindness and presence. We are one body, the Body of Christ. May your dwelling place and comfort be in the heart of God, the heart of love without end. May we be messengers of God's love, peace and forgiveness in the world today.

Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you.

Let us go in peace, loving and serving God in all we do.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song

Seek Ye First <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFxZeY2D5tc>

The Lord's Prayer – Andrea Bocelli & Mormon Tabernacle Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8jlmjg4UY>