

## Eleventh Sunday of the Year

### Jesus forgives a sinner

#### INTRODUCTION

It is never easy to say sorry, to admit our mistakes or to ask for forgiveness. Jesus showed us that he will always welcome us back to the joy of his love, whatever we have done wrong.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Sing *See the light* as the candles are lit.

#### SORRY

Read the following prayer:

Do not be afraid,  
God will always love you.  
Whatever you have done,  
God will always love you.  
As a Father loves his child,  
He will always love you.  
Come back to him and know,  
God's love lasts forever.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said 'Love one another as I have loved you.'  
Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL (cf Luke 7:36-50)

One of the Pharisees called Simon invited Jesus to dinner. A woman who had done many things she was ashamed of, heard that Jesus would be there and came to find him. She knelt at his feet and began to cry, wiping his feet dry with her long hair before covering them with kisses and perfumed ointment.

Simon was annoyed that Jesus would allow such a person near him. But Jesus knew what Simon was thinking and asked him, 'If one servant owed his master fifty pounds and another owed his master five thousand pounds, which one would love his master more if the debts were cancelled?' 'The one who owed more,' Simon answered.

Then Jesus said, 'Simon, you did not offer me water to wash with, a kiss as a greeting, or perfume to refresh me. This woman has done all these things and more. Surely everything she has done wrong has been forgiven, for her to show such great love.'

Then Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you! Go now, your sins have been forgiven.'

#### DISCUSSION

Who was the Pharisee who invited Jesus to dinner?

How did Simon feel when Jesus did not send the woman away? – As a Pharisee Simon was very religious and took great pride in obeying the laws. He felt annoyed and embarrassed to have a sinful woman in his own home. He could not understand why Jesus allowed this sinner to stay, instead of sending her away.

How did the woman show Jesus that she loved him and was sorry for everything she had done wrong? – She cried so much that she washed his feet with her tears and then dried them with her own hair. Finally she covered them with kisses and perfumed ointment as a sign of her love.

Jesus treated the woman with kindness and pity. How did he explain God's forgiveness to Simon? – However bad we have been, God is ready to forgive us when we are truly sorry. Jesus came to save sinners and to bring them back to God's love. Those who need God's forgiveness most, feel the greatest joy when they are forgiven. Jesus compared this woman to the servant with the huge debt who loved his master all the more because he had been pardoned so much.

What prayer can we say to tell God that we are sorry for all our mistakes? – Everyone learns an 'Act of Contrition' which is a special prayer for saying sorry and making peace with God. We use this prayer in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but it is also a good prayer to say every night before we go to sleep.

#### ACTIVITY

Copy the Act of Contrition for each child to colour and to use at home.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Help us Lord,  
to come to you  
and ask for your forgiveness  
so that we will know the joy  
of making our peace with you.

Read the Act of Contrition together.