

# ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Forgiving God,  
anyone who has done wrong  
can come back to you  
through Jesus.  
We are sorry  
for going our own way,  
for not loving you as we ought.  
May we see the smile  
of your forgiveness.  
We make this prayer to you  
through Christ our Lord.

## FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both of our readings focus on God's forgiveness. In the first reading, Nathan reveals David's sin: he is responsible for the death of Uriah for clearly selfish motives. But David's confession is followed immediately by Nathan's assurance, "God has forgiven you."

In our Gospel, Jesus points out the difference between the arrogance of the self-righteous (Simon) and the love of the woman who has been forgiven. God's forgiveness is not meant to "hold us in check," as it were, but to arouse us to love. The focus is clear:

*Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace.*

FIRST READING: *2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13*  
*A reading from the second book of Samuel.*

The prophet Nathan said to David,

"This is what God told me to tell you.

'I anointed you and made you king of Israel.  
I saved you when Saul tried to kill you.  
I made you ruler over all of Israel and Judah.  
And I told you that I would give you everything.

'Why, then, have you not obeyed me?  
Why have you done evil things?  
You sent Uriah into the war so he would be killed!  
And you killed him so that you could marry his wife.  
Because of the bad example of your sin,  
people in your family  
will continue to kill and be killed.' "

When David heard this, he said to Nathan,

"Yes, I have sinned against God. I confess it."


Nathan said to David,

"God has forgiven you. You will be saved."

*The Word of the Lord.*


## RESPONSE: *Psalm 51*

RESPONSE:



In your kind-ness, O my God, have mer-cy on me, have mer-cy on me.


VERSES:



1. I know \_\_\_ that I have sinned and done what is wrong.  
2. O God \_\_\_ for-give my sins and make my heart true.

to Response

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



"Be-cause you be-lieve, your sins are for-giv-en. Go in peace." Al-le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL: *Luke 7:36-50*

*A reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

One day a Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to come and eat with him. So Jesus went.

Now there was a certain woman in that city,  
and everyone knew she was a sinner.  
When she heard that Jesus was having dinner at Simon's house,  
she came, bringing with her a jar of perfumed ointment.  
She knelt beside Jesus and began to cry.  
Her tears fell on his feet, and she dried them with her hair.  
She kissed his feet and put the perfumed ointment on them.  
When Simon, the Pharisee, saw all of this, he said to himself,  
"If Jesus were really a prophet,  
he would know that this woman is a sinner,  
and he wouldn't let her touch him."

Jesus said to the Pharisee,  
"Simon, there is something I want to say to you."

Simon said,  
"What is it, Teacher?"

Jesus said,  
"There was a certain man who lent money to people,  
but two of them were not able to pay him back.  
One owed him 50 silver coins,  
and the other one owed him 500 silver coins.  
The man told both of them  
that they didn't have to pay him back.  
Now which of these two do you think  
will love the man the most?"

Simon answered,  
"I suppose it would be the one  
who owed the man the most money."

Jesus said,  
"You are right."

Then Jesus looked at the woman who was there,  
and he said to Simon,  
"Look at this woman.  
When I came into your home,  
you didn't give me any water to wash my feet.  
But this woman has washed my feet with her tears  
and dried them with her hair.  
You didn't kiss me when I came in,  
but she has been kissing my feet since she came.  
You didn't even anoint my head with oil,  
but she has put perfumed ointment on my feet!  
I tell you that all of her sins have been forgiven.  
And you see how much she loves!  
But people who are forgiven only a little  
will only love a little."

Then Jesus said to the woman,  
"Yes, your sins are forgiven."

The people who were there at the dinner said to each other,  
"Who is this man who forgives sins?"

Jesus said to the woman,  
"Because you believed, your sins are completely forgiven.  
Go in peace."

*The Gospel of the Lord*

#### REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

*After the Gospel*, ask the children to recall what they heard. Who was there? What did they say and do? Allow time for all of the details and even a bit of visualizing this dramatic story. Concentrate for a while on the attitude of Simon. Is our attitude sometimes like his: rejecting those who do wrong? The point of the story is that Jesus doesn't reject those who do wrong.

This may be a good Sunday to help the children understand that confessing our faults (to one another or sacramentally) should be joyful. *We don't ever have to be afraid to say we have done wrong because Jesus always says, "Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace."*