

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

20 February 2022 - Year C

“Be merciful as your Father is merciful.”

Something to Think About

Loving people is not always easy, but we need to keep trying to be kind and helpful even to those people we may not like. Can you think of a time when you have found it hard to love someone?

The Story

The gospel today tells us about the amazing generosity, compassion and forgiveness of God. Since we are God’s children, Jesus tells us to act in the same way. Jesus tells us to love everyone, even the people who hurt us. He tells us to give things to people, even if we won’t get anything in return. He tells us to forgive people and be good to them, even when they are unkind or cruel to us.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

6:27-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

"This is what I say to all who will listen to me:

Love your enemies, and be good to everyone who hates you.

Ask God to bless anyone who curses you, and pray for everyone who is cruel to you.

If someone slaps you on one cheek, don't stop that person from slapping you on the other cheek.

If someone wants to take your coat, don't try to keep back your shirt.

Give to everyone who asks and don't ask people to return what they have taken from you.

Treat others just as you want to be treated.

"If you love only someone who loves you, will God praise you for that?

Even sinners love people who love them. If you are kind only to someone who is kind to you, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners are kind to people who are kind to them.

If you lend money only to someone you think will pay you back, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners lend to sinners because they think they will get it all back.

"But love your enemies and be good to them. Lend without expecting to be paid back.

Then you will get a great reward, and you will be the true children of God in heaven.

He is good even to people who are unthankful and cruel. Have pity on others, just as your Father has pity on you. "Don't judge others, and God will not judge you. Don't be hard on others, and God will not be hard on you. Forgive others, and God will forgive you."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Watch the video and sing along together: [Love one Another](#).



Group Discussion

The kingdom God wants is a kingdom of love, compassion, forgiveness and generosity. This is quite different from the world we live in. So what needs to change? Imagine that you are in charge of the world. What would it look like? How would people treat each other? Would there be any people living in poverty? What would the environment look like?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will be people who can show love and forgiveness. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for peace in the world. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that we might be generous, forgiving and compassionate. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we might always see the best in other people. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we may learn to be friends with all people. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Teach us to love all people and to treat others as we want to be treated.
Help us to forgive others,
just as God forgives us.
Amen.

Group Activity

Spread the love!

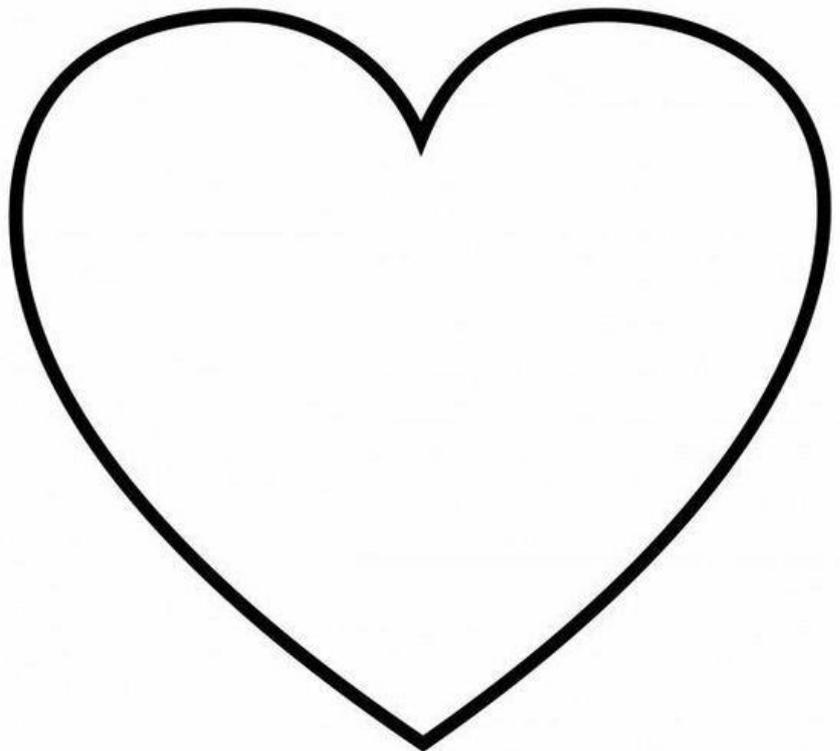
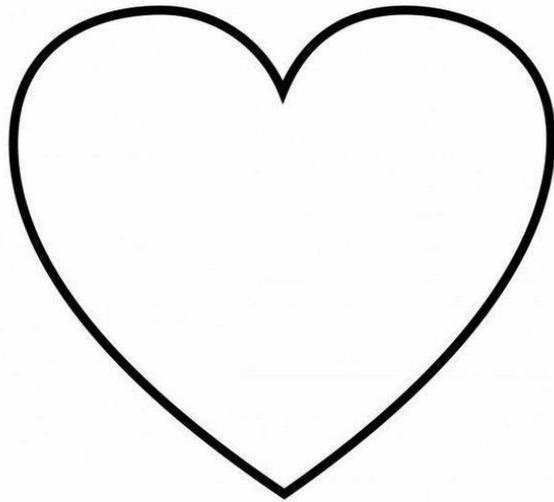
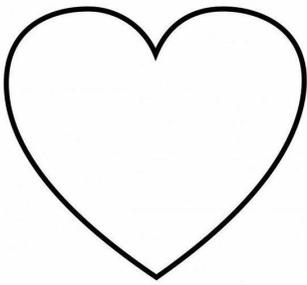
Encourage children to think of someone they could give a card to without expecting anything in return.

You will need: an A4 piece of cardboard for each child, coloured pencils or crayons for decorating, different sized heart shapes from different coloured cardstock paper, glue stick.

1. Fold the A4 cardboard in half to make a card.
2. Invite children to add colour to the front of the card.
3. Fold the hearts in half vertically and glue the folded line to the centre of the card, starting with the largest heart and ending with the smallest. (see attached template)
4. Complete the card by helping children to write a message on the inside before giving the card to their chosen person.



Heart Templates





WRITE A TITLE FOR EACH PICTURE

FORGIVE
EACH OTHER
LOVE
EACH OTHER