



## Mass Plans Brought to You by CTR

Following the guidelines from the "Directory for Masses With Children" this Mass plan was created to help teachers guide their students in creating a liturgy for a school Mass. Recognizing that every school and Liturgy is unique, you and your students may wish to amend these Mass plans. An important goal is that each of your students feels involved in the planning and celebration of the liturgy so that they may grow in their understanding and appreciation of the Mass.

# LITURGY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

## THEME: FORGIVENESS

### PREPARATION

"Forgiveness" Quote Posters:

Have the students from the hosting class research quotes that refer to "forgiveness" and create a poster for each class to display. (These will be given out after Communion)

Examples:

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" Lord's Prayer

"Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned" Prayer of St. Francis

"First be reconciled to your brother or sister and then come and offer your gift" Matthew 5:24

### COMMUNION MEDITATION (OPTIONAL)

Teach the hosting class *O God, We Are Your Children* by Mark Friedman found in *God Shines On You* OCP Publications. If you opt not to sing the song you can explain and give out the "forgiveness" posters.

### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Have students create a picture (collage) of family and a picture (collage) of friends



### INTRODUCTORY RITES

Welcome/Introduction

\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
 Good Morning! We welcome you this morning to our liturgy celebrating forgiveness. We gather to remember

God's mercy and love. Our God is a kind and merciful God, always willing to forgive us. We know that God is full of gentleness and that God's love for us is never ending.



\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
 God knows us as we are, our good points and our weak ones. God helps us to do good but also forgives us when we aren't so good. No matter what we have done, God offers us the chance to try again.

\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
 One of the greatest things about being here at (name of school) is getting to be friends with a lot of nice people. Sometimes, though, we do things that can hurt our friendships with other people. We have to learn to say "I'm sorry" when we've done wrong and learn to say "that's O.K., I forgive you" when someone says that they are sorry. These words can make a friendship even stronger.

\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
 When Jesus worked miracles he also forgave the sins of people. Jesus tells us we must forgive one another if we want God to forgive us. Let us all remember to practice forgiveness when we have trouble with friends, teachers, neighbors and all others we meet. Our Presider this morning is "\_\_\_\_\_" Please stand now and join us in singing our gathering song: "Children of God"

**GATHERING SONG:**

*Children of God* by Christopher Walker OCP

**ENTRANCE PROCESSION**

Cross, One poster with "forgiveness" verse to display on altar (or all the posters), Lectionary, Book of Remembrance, Altar Servers, Presider

**GREETING**

Presider(s)

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Presider or Student)

Loving God, We are sorry we have sinned against you and against each other. We ask for your mercy and forgiveness.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student)

Lord, forgive us for the times we are selfish and rude. Lord, have mercy. All: Lord, have mercy

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student)

Lord, forgive those people who say hurtful things to others. Christ, have mercy. All: Christ, have mercy.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student)

Lord, please forgive us when we can't find it in our hearts to forgive those who have hurt us. Lord, have mercy. All: Lord, have mercy

**OPENING STATEMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student)

Dear God, we know that no matter what we have done, You offer us the chance to try again. Help us know that when we come to You, You will always love us and forgive us our sins as we forgive others. Amen

**OPENING PRAYER**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Presider)

Compassionate God, hear our prayers. We have come together to celebrate your forgiveness and we pray that you will guide us as we learn of your unending love for us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen Please be seated for the First Reading.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Introduction of First Reading

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student)

This reading comes from one of the letters of St. Paul to the faithful people in Colossae. Even now, more than two thousand years later, this letter still has good advice for us today. St. Paul tells us that God, our Father has forgiven us and that we should try to forgive other people when they do wrong to us.

A reading from Colossians, Chapter 3, verses 12 to 13.

**FIRST READING:**

Colossians 3:12-13

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student)

"Dear Friends, God loves you, so you must be kind to each other. Be patient and put up with each other. Be ready to forgive as soon as an argument begins, because God has forgiven you. The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*In Your Kindness* Christopher Walker OCP

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student)

Our Responsorial is an adaptation of Psalm 51 "In Your Kindness" Please join us in singing the response.

(Student or Choir will lead the Response and Verses.

Sing: "In Your kindness O my God have mercy on me, have mercy on me."

**INTRODUCTION FOR THE GOSPEL**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student)

In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 15, we hear the story of a young man who makes many mistakes. He learns that when he admits his mistakes and says "I'm sorry," he is forgiven.

**LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Glory and Praise* by Joe Regan NALR

**GOSPEL**

Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told this story, "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.' So the father divided the property between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corncobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any. That brought him to his senses. He said, 'All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.' He got up and went home to his father.

When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: "Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son ever again." But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the servants, "Quick. Bring

a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We're going to feast! We're going to have a wonderful time! My son is here – given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found! And they began to have a wonderful time." The Word of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ



## HOMILY

Presider

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

\_\_\_\_\_(Presider)  
Gentle God, you are our peace and reconciliation with one another. As people of forgiveness we unite with one another to pray for today's needs in the Church and the world.

\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
Jesus tells us that God is always ready to forgive and wants us to forgive, too. So we trust in God when we pray. Our response will be "Lord, teach us how to forgive."

\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
Lord, may the leaders of nations and all peoples know that we are all created by the same God who loves us all and wants us all to care and forgive one another. We pray to the Lord. "Lord, teach us how to forgive."

\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
Lord, we pray for anyone who has hurt us, in our family or in school. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord, teach us how to forgive."

\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
Lord, we know that you always forgive us. Let us pray that we may always forgive ourselves when we know we have done wrong. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord, teach us how to forgive."

\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
Lord, we pray for the sick of our Parish and for all our relatives who are ill. Help them to feel your healing presence. We pray also for those who have died. Teach us to be comforters of each other. We pray to the Lord. "Lord, teach us how to forgive."

\_\_\_\_\_(Presider)  
God, Giver of Gifts, we are your children. We thank you for the gift of your forgiveness and mercy. Help us to always follow Jesus Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit. We pray this together in the name of Jesus. Amen

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presider invites the students preparing the altar to come forward and those bringing up the gifts go to the back of the church.

## PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

(Students or Altar Servers)

Altar Cloth, Corporal, Chalice, Purificator, Sacramentary

## OFFERTORY SONG

Quiet Background Music

## GIFT BEARERS

(Students)

\_\_\_\_\_(Student) Cross Bearer  
\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
We bring to the altar a cross symbolizing God's forgiveness when we seek reconciliation.

\_\_\_\_\_(Student) Family Picture/collage Bearer  
\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
We bring to the altar a picture of a family. Jesus wants us to say we are sorry when we hurt someone in our family and to be forgiving when someone hurts us.

\_\_\_\_\_(Student) Friends Picture/collage Bearer  
\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
We bring to the altar a picture of our friends. Sometimes we fight with our friends. We can be like Jesus and say we are sorry and forgive each other when we get into quarrels.

\_\_\_\_\_(Student) Wine Bearer  
\_\_\_\_\_(Student) Paten Bearer  
\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
We bring to the altar the bread and wine. They will become the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who taught us how to forgive.

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

\_\_\_\_\_(Presider)  
Lord, God, we pray that through our offering of bread and wine, and our welcoming of your Son, Jesus, into our lives, we may believe more fully in your forgiveness. Help us to become people of forgiveness as we share these gifts in the name of your Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS**

Holy Holy (Sung)

Memorial Acclamation (Sung)

Amen (Sung)

Our Father

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God (Sung)

## **COMMUNION SONGS (SUGGESTIONS)**

1. *Prayer of St. Francis* by Sebastian Temple OCP
2. *We Come To Ask Forgiveness* by Carey Landry NALR
3. *Because of Jesus* by Barbara Bridge OCP

## **COMMUNION MEDITATION (OPTIONAL)**

1. The Hosting Class shares a song by Mark Friedman O God, *We Are Your Children* found in God Shines On You/OCP Publications
2. After singing the song, have students walk into the congregation and "deliver" a "forgiveness quote poster" to each teacher to display in their classroom.



## **INTRODUCTION**

\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
Today, as a Communion Meditation, the "hosting class" would like to share a special song that shares our desire for reconciliation with God and with each other. After our song we will be gifting each class with a special poster to display in your classroom. We pray....Forgiving God, allow us to forgive ourselves. Gift us with the peace that comes from a forgiving heart. We know that one of the best ways to grow in your love is to have a forgiving heart. Amen

## **CONCLUDING RITE FINAL STATEMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
Loving God, There are times when we think that in forgiving someone we're doing the other person a favor or that we're giving the other person a gift.

Actually, forgiving someone is giving ourselves a gift. It brings the gift of peace to our heart. As we go forth this morning, help us bring the spirit of being a forgiving

person to others and to ourselves and share your peace. Amen

## **FINAL PRAYER**

\_\_\_\_\_(Presider)  
God of Forgiveness, Let us remember to be patient with one another, always ready to forgive. May we keep Jesus in our minds and hearts and practice forgiveness with all we meet. We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

## **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL** (Presider)

## **GOING FORTH SONG**

*A Circle of Love* by Felicia Sandler

\_\_\_\_\_(Student)  
Please join us in singing our Going Forth Song "A Circle of Love"