

Liturgy Alive of St. Clare, Virgin

Opening Prayer

God of mercy and compassion,
you know how sometimes
we have to wring forgiveness from our torn hearts.
Maybe we cannot pardon in others
what we condemn in ourselves.
We are at the same time guilty and offended.
God, help us to understand ourselves
that we may be more understanding to others
and that we may learn to forgive
totally and without regret
as you forgive us again and again

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Introduction

In an epic style, imitating that of the crossing of the Sea of Reeds at the exodus, the author of the Book of Joshua narrates how the people of Israel crossed the Jordan and entered into the Promised Land.

Gospel Introduction

God is good and merciful by nature, forgiving, loyal, radiating generosity. It is natural for him to forgive. In our case, things are more complicated. Are we understanding and forgiving by nature? By calling, yes, but by nature? And second, in God's case there is only one offended party, God. In our situation, quite often there are two offenders and two offended parties. Shall the twain ever meet, if only one is willing to let bygones be bygones and to make a fresh start? When we are hurt, we have to tear the word or gesture of forgiveness from our hearts. And yet, we have to do it seventy-times seven times, says the Lord...

General Intercessions

- For the Church, that it may keep itself dedicated to bring reconciliation to its members and to the world, we pray:

- For all Christian Churches, long divided by grudges and pride, that we may be brought together in the unity of one gospel and one love of Christ, we pray:

- For those married couples that live side by side without much love and without communicating, that they may come to forgive, to understand and to appreciate each other again, we pray:

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,
we gather around this table
to remember with bread and wine
that your Son shed his blood to reconcile us to you.
Let this be a celebration
of pardon and peace with one another.
Help us to love one another with a sincere love
and to forgive one another,
for you have forgiven us much

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Lord our God,
you want us to live not in the past but for the future.
In the strength of this sacrament
of unity and forgiveness,
give us hearts generous enough
to let bygones be bygones
and to build up together a community of peace
in which we accept one another
with our gifts and faults,

as you accept us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

God has spoken very clearly to us today that we have to become like him, to forget and forgive, to heal and care, and we will be healed ourselves. May God be with you and bless you, that Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.