



CELEBRATING AT HOME

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The hospitality of God (Luke 11:1-13)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church
in this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,

you are the compassion of God.

Lord Jesus,

you reveal God's generous love to us.

Lord Jesus,

you are near to all who call on you.

Scripture Reading (*Luke 11:1-13*)

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy,
your kingdom come;
give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves
forgive each one who is in debt to us.
And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it to him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one

who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread. Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Reflection - *The hospitality of God*

Many people struggle with a name for God. For some, 'Father' is fine. For others, the image of God as Father evokes traumatic memories of their childhood experience of pain, suffering, neglect and even abuse.

Alternatively, some prefer terms like, 'Creator', 'Redeemer', and 'Sanctifier'. But these terms describe functions, not persons, and they seem to lack the warmth and intimacy that we intuitively feel marks our relationship with God.

In today's Gospel, one of the disciples, having seen Jesus at prayer, asks him to teach them. The prayer that Jesus teaches them is probably very close what he, himself, prayed.

The prayer has none of the formality of those used in Temple and Synagogue worship. Instead, it begins with a more informal, warm and intimate addressing of God as 'Abba' - not as formal as 'Father' and not as childish as 'Daddy', but somewhere in between.

However we choose to name God, the term we use needs to have the same sense as 'Abba' had for Jesus. The disciples also live in the same warm and intimate relationship which God and Jesus share. And it is out of this relationship as members of God's household that Jesus teaches them to pray.

The focus of the prayer is initially on God alone ('may your name be held holy'), then moves to what the world needs ('your kingdom come'), then to what the disciples need (sustenance, forgiveness and rescue from trial, persecution and temptation).

A community which prays this prayer recognises its privileged closeness to God. But it also recognises that the hospitality of God calls the whole human race into

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this same closeness experienced as the coming of the Kingdom.

The shamelessly persistent knocking on a friend's door is an encouragement not to be afraid to continually ask God for what we need to live as members of the kingdom. God will not fail to share God's life and love through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

If human beings, as flawed as we are, know how to give good things to our children, then how much more will the loving and gracious God give the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who ask? The Holy Spirit who is the bond of love between God, Jesus and us - the Holy Spirit who helps us sense and experience that we are deeply enfolded in God's love, care and concern.

Prayers of Intercession

You, Lord, sustain and nourish us.

Inspire us to feed the hungers of the world.

May your kingdom find a home in us,
and be present in our every thought and action.

You are forgiveness and peace.

Help us as we strive to forgive each other.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth

as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Closing Prayer

Your faithfulness to us,

Lord, our God,

is beyond all our hope and expectation.

Heal and free us when we are broken

or harmed by evil.

Gently reassure us with your love

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

carry us gently through the week ahead.

Amen.



Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.



The Carmelites
Australia & Timor-Leste

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