



Small Groups

Parish Community of Saint Helen

Sunday, September 17, 2023
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Divine Echo Week 2

Opening Song [Echo ~ Newport](#)

Opening Prayer

Eternal God,
in whom mercy is endless
and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible,
look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us,
that in difficult moments we might not despair
nor become despondent,
but with great confidence
submit ourselves to Your holy will,
which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.
~ From the Divine Mercy Prayer

Gospel

Mt 18:23-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him,
"Lord, if my brother sins against me,
how often must I forgive?
As many as seven times?"
Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.
That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king

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who decided to settle accounts with his servants.
When he began the accounting,
a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount.
Since he had no way of paying it back,
his master ordered him to be sold,
along with his wife, his children, and all his property,
in payment of the debt.
At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said,
'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.'
Moved with compassion the master of that servant
let him go and forgave him the loan.
When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants
who owed him a much smaller amount.
He seized him and started to choke him, demanding,
'Pay back what you owe.'
Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him,
'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'
But he refused.
Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison
until he paid back the debt.
Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened,
they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master
and reported the whole affair.
His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant!
I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to.
Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant,
as I had pity on you?'
Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers
until he should pay back the whole debt.
So will my heavenly Father do to you,

unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

Reflection Video:

[The weekend Homily](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Do we forgive others so God will forgive us, or does God forgive us so that we will have a forgiving attitude?
2. How have you been burned in past relationships? What does this passage say to you about venturing to risk again?
3. How have you experienced mercy from God? From another person?
4. Imagine Jesus reaching out and saying to you, "My dear servant, I have paid this debt for you. It is completely erased, taken off my Father's books. It is no longer held against you. As the Father has forgiven you, now, go and do the same to anyone who has harmed or offended you. As you consider this, offer your own prayer of gratitude to the Lord. *After some quiet time see if anyone would like to share their experience or prayer.*

Closing Prayer

Ask for the group intentions ~ *Lord hear our prayer* after each
Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

Closing Reflection Song

[All the People Said Amen ~ Matt Maher](#)

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