

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 20 September 2020



**"Are you jealous  
because I am  
generous?"**

### Something to Think About

Today we reflect on the generosity of God and God's great love for all people. God does not judge worth in the same way as human beings do. We often fall into the trap of judging others. Can you think of a time that you have judged someone a little too harshly this week?

### The Story

Today's gospel story is about a man who hired some workers to pick grapes in his vineyard. The men who stood in the market place were there for a reason - they were waiting for work. In Jesus' time, a man would take his tools to the market place early in the morning and wait for someone to offer him work for the day. If a man missed out on a day's work, then his family might starve. In the gospel today, men were hired at different times throughout the day - some early in the morning and others late in the afternoon, but they all received the same money. The land owner was generous to pay a full day's wage to everyone - even those who had only worked for one hour!

### The Scriptures

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 20:1-8, 10-13, 15**

As Jesus was telling what the kingdom of heaven would be like, he said:  
"Early one morning a man went out to hire some workers for his vineyard.  
After he had agreed to pay them the usual amount for a day's work,  
he sent them off to his vineyard.

"About nine that morning, the man saw some other people standing in the market with nothing to do. He said he would pay them what was fair, if they would work in his vineyard. So they went.

"At noon and again about three in the afternoon he returned to the market. And each time he made the same agreement with others who were loafing around with nothing to do.

"Finally, about five in the afternoon the man went back and found some others standing there. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. Then he told them to go work in his vineyard.

"That evening the owner of the vineyard told the man in charge of the workers to call them in and give them their money. The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard.

They said, 'The ones who were hired last worked for only one hour. But you paid them the same that you did us. And we worked in the hot sun all day long!'

"The owner answered one of them,

'Friend, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on.

Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?'"

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

## Group Discussion

This parable is about the generosity and compassion of God.  
Even at the final hour, the owner welcomed the workers.  
Those men received a day's wage even though they worked for only an hour.  
This is who God is!  
We cannot earn God's love - it is for God to give to us!  
God's love is not payment for work done or a life well lived - it is pure gift.  
Talk together about how amazing this is and praise God for such a generous love.

## 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:* We pray that our leaders will be generous. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for farmers. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for all who die of hunger. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for those who cannot find work. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

**All: Amen.**

## Video

Click to watch the video.

[The Most Generous Boy in the World](#)



## Prayer

Say this prayer together during the week.



## Group Activity

Make a Gratitude Tree to celebrate all the generous gifts that God has given to us.

You will need: craft paper, string, some twigs or tree branches, markers, small rocks and a vase.

- \* Cut leaf shapes out of the craft paper.
- \* Punch holes in the leaves and tie a piece of string in the holes.
- \* Add rocks to the base of the vase and place the large twigs or tree branches in so they stand upright.
- \* Ask the children to write or draw the generous gift/s of God that they are thankful for.
- \* Then tie the leaves on the tree branches.

If this activity is being done at home, the children could add to the tree during the week.



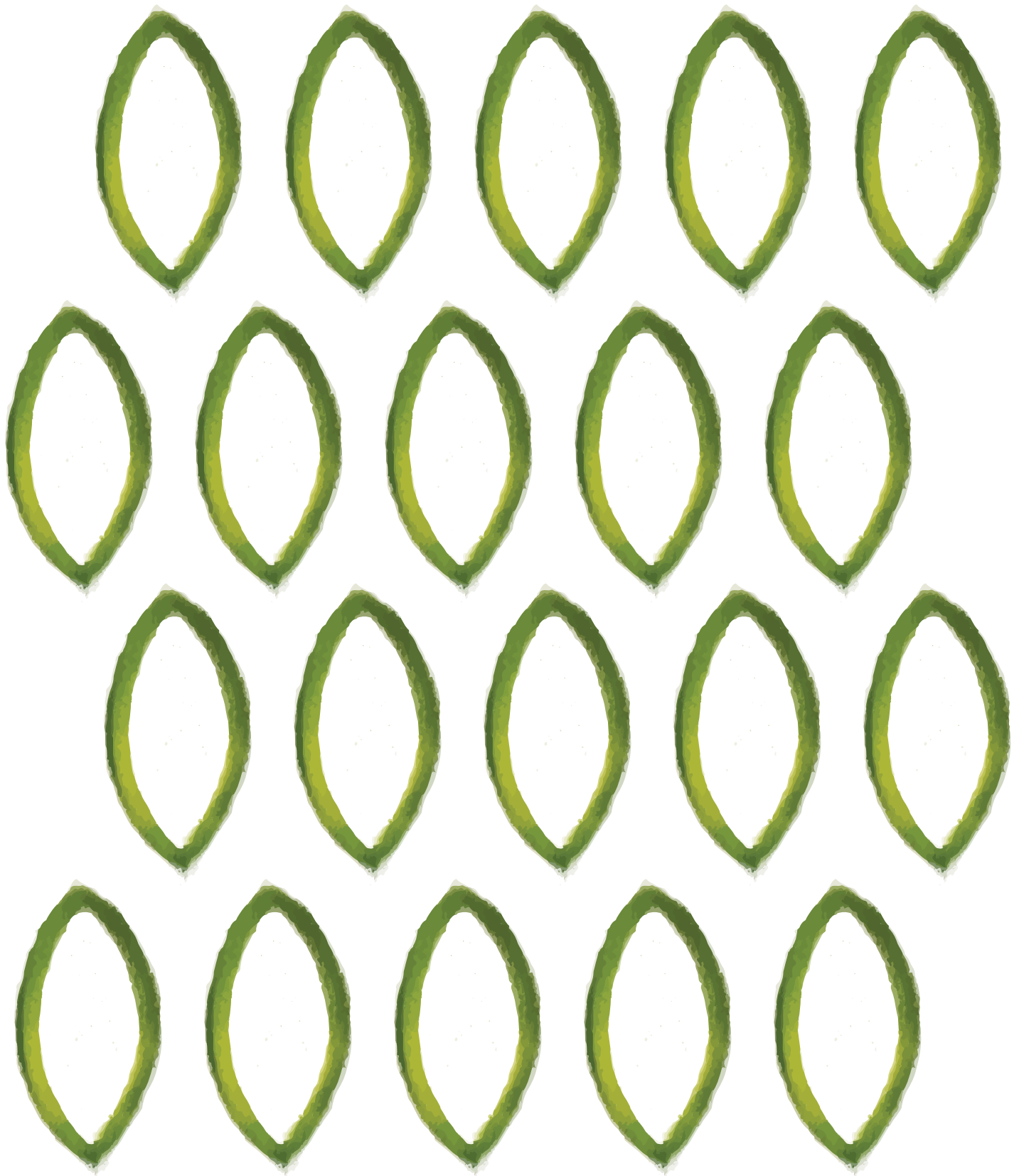
or:

To do this activity entirely with paper use the templates for the tree and the leaves which are attached.

After children have written or drawn God's gifts on the leaves, these can be affixed to the tree branches with glue or blu-tac.







## WHAT DOES JACK DO?

Jack has been helping Grandma in the garden all morning. She gives him some lollies to say 'thank you'. But when Ava and Mum come to pick him up, Grandma gives lollies to Ava as well. Is it fair?

ORDINARY TIME 25 – YEAR A  
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Meet the twins, Jack and Ava, with Clover the dog.

DRAW THE EXPRESSION ON JACK'S FACE.

# IT'S NOT FAIR!