

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11 September 2022 - Year C

“There will be great rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner.”

Something to Think About

Can you think of something you have done in the past, that you needed to be forgiven for? How did it feel to be forgiven?

The Story

This wonderful story is about God's great love for us. No matter how many mistakes we make, God is always ready to forgive and welcome us back.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

15:11-32

Jesus told the people this story:

"Once a man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me my share of the property.' So the father divided his property between his two sons.

Not long after that, the younger son packed up everything he owned and left for a foreign country, where he wasted all his money in wild living. He had spent everything, when a bad famine spread through that whole land. Soon he had nothing to eat. He went to work for a man in that country, and the man sent him out to take care of his pigs. He would have been glad to eat what the pigs were eating, but no one gave him a thing. Finally, he came to his senses and said, 'My father's workers have plenty to eat, and here I am, starving to death! I will leave and go to my father and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son. Treat me like one of your workers.' The younger son got up and started back to his father. But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. He ran to his son and hugged and kissed him. The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son.'

But his father said to the servants, 'Hurry and bring the best clothes and put them on him. Give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. Get the best calf and prepare it, so we can eat and celebrate. This son of mine was dead, but has now come back to life. He was lost and has now been found.' And they began to celebrate.

The older son had been out in the field. But when he came near the house, he heard the music and dancing. So he called one of the servants over and asked, 'What's going on here?' The servant answered, 'Your brother has come home safe and sound, and your father ordered us to kill the best calf.' The older brother got so mad that he would not even go into the house. His father came out and begged him to go in. But he said to his father, 'For years I have worked for you like a slave and have always obeyed you. But you have never even given me a little goat, so that I could give a dinner for my friends. This other son of yours wasted your money on bad women. And now that he has come home, you ordered the best calf to be killed for a feast.'

His father replied, 'My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we should be glad and celebrate! Your brother was dead, but he is now alive. He was lost and has now been found.'"

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

Video

[The Prodigal Son](#)



Group Discussion

Talk about some of the wonderful and extravagant ways that your parents and grandparents show their love for you.

How might you show your love for your parents and family members today?

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 1: We pray that our leaders will make wise decisions. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for people who are trying to find their way back to Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for patience with others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for hearts that are filled with forgiveness. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for the courage to say sorry to God. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

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

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear God,
Thank you for your great love for us,
and for forgiving us when we do the
wrong thing.
Help us to trust that you will always
welcome us home.
Amen.

Group Activity

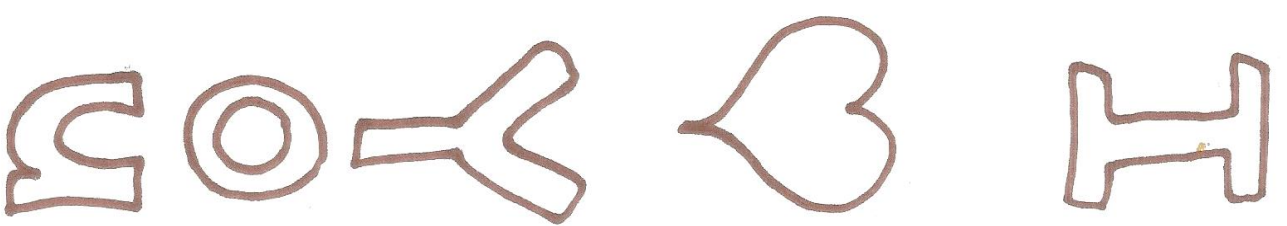
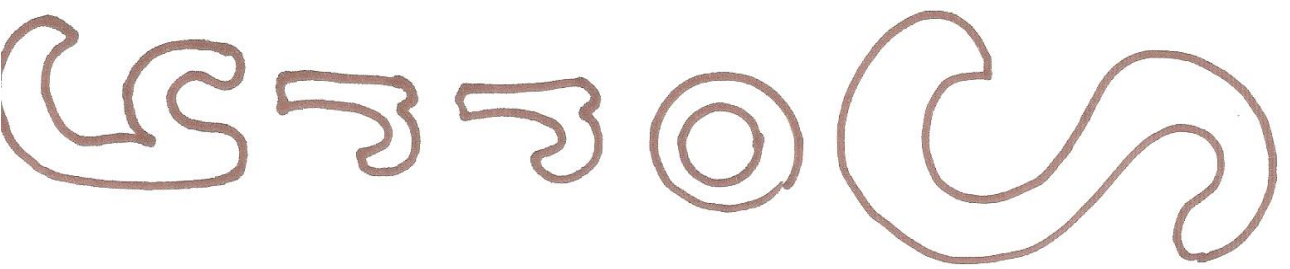
Saying Sorry

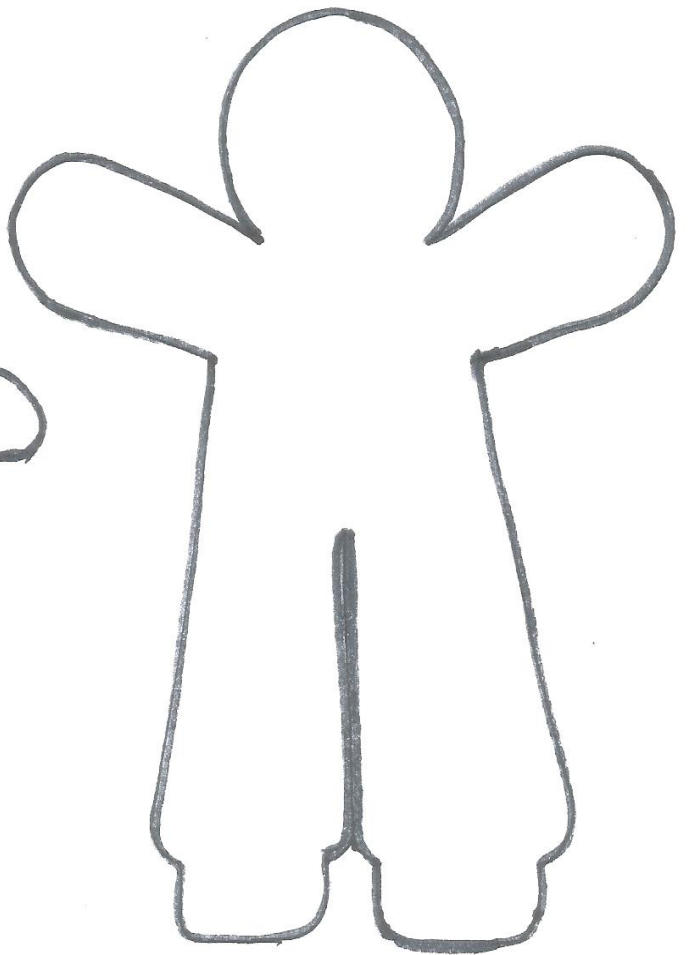
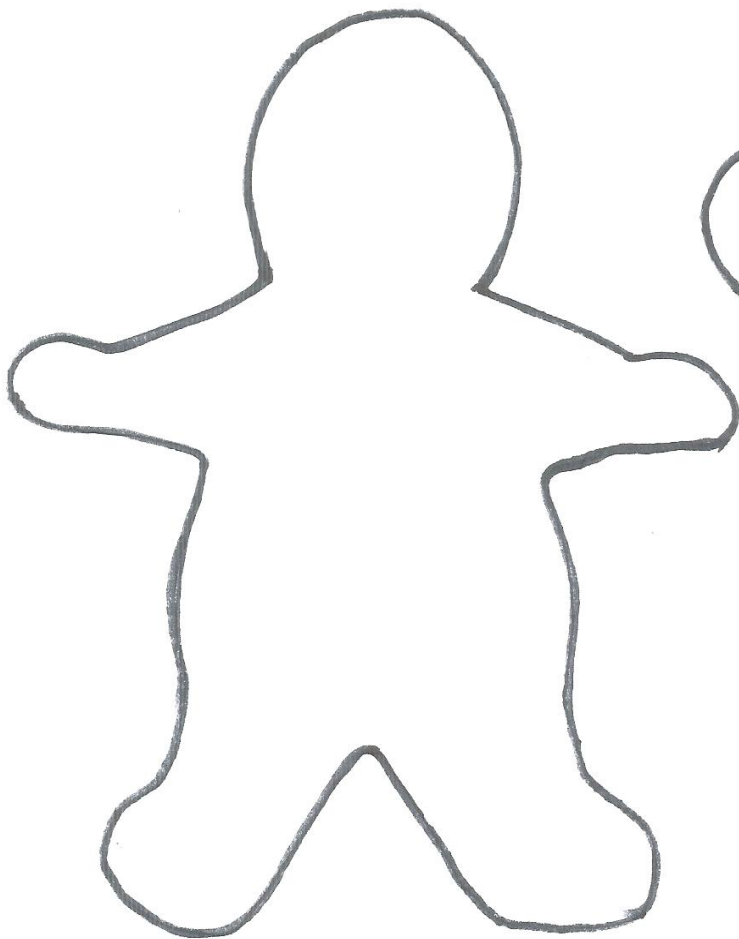
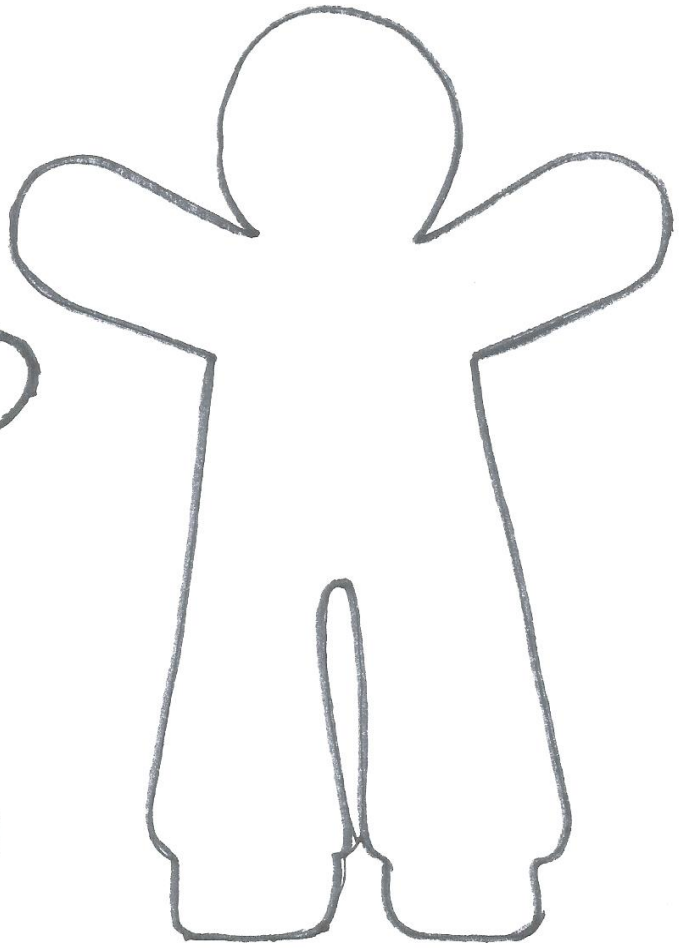
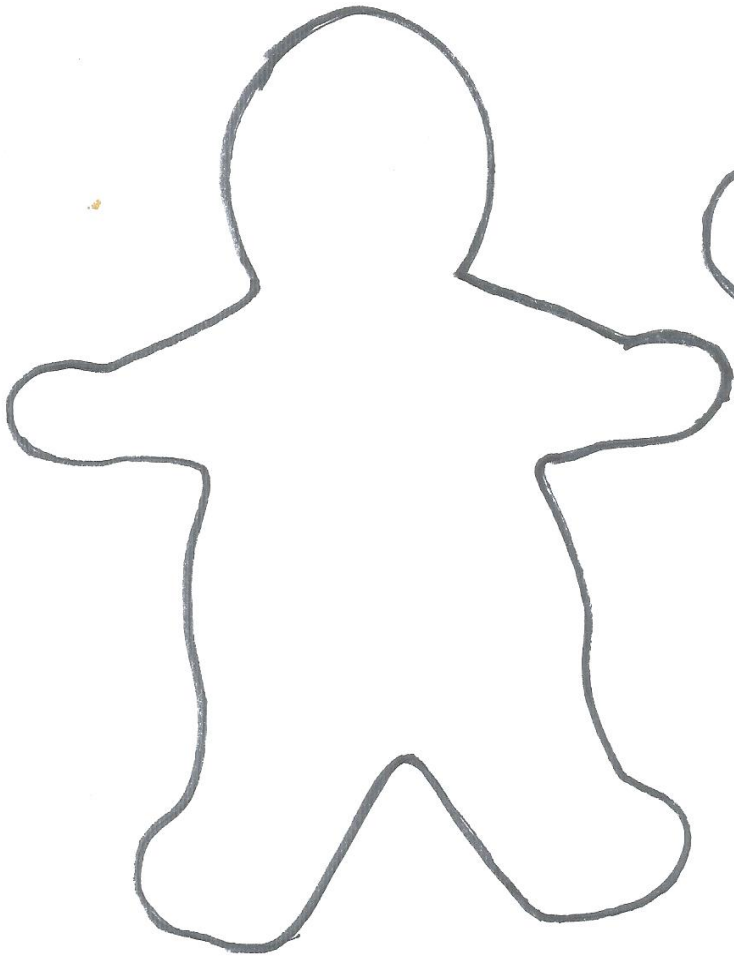
You will need: a template for each child, coloured markers, scissors, glue.

1. Choose two figures of people shapes to colour in.
2. Cut out the two paper people and glue them into the centre of the template to show the sorry person being welcomed with love.
3. Then colour in the words on the sides of the template.



Even when we have made bad choices,
God always welcomes us back.

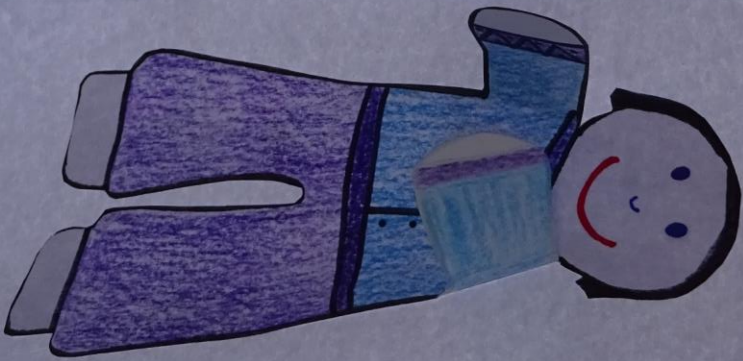




Sorrow



Even when we have
made bad choices, God
always welcomes us back.



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HELP THE YOUNGER SON TO FIND HIS WAY HOME



TO HIS LOVING FATHER