

[127] **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME C**

FIRST READING

Christ came to save sinners.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy

1:12-15b

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord.

He has given me the strength for my work
because he knew that he could trust me.

I used to say terrible and insulting things about him,
and I was cruel.

But he had mercy on me
because I didn't know what I was doing,
and I had not yet put my faith in him.

Christ Jesus our Lord was very kind to me.

He has greatly blessed my life
with faith and love just like his own.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,
and I was the worst sinner of all!

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

111:1-2, 3-4, 7-8

R. (7a) Your works, O Lord, are justice and truth.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Shout praises to the Lord!

With all my heart

I will thank the Lord

when his people meet.

The Lord has done

many wonderful things!

Everyone who is pleased

with God's marvelous deeds

will keep them in mind.

R. Your works, O Lord, are justice and truth.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Everything the Lord does
is glorious and majestic,
and his power to bring justice
will never end.
The Lord God is famous
for his wonderful deeds,
and he is kind and merciful.

R. Your works, O Lord, are justice and truth.
or:
R. Alleluia.

God is always honest and fair,
and his laws can be trusted.
They are true and right
and will stand forever.

R. Your works, O Lord, are justice and truth.
or:
R. Alleluia.

ALLELUIA

2 Corinthians 5:19

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the good news of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

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

† 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,

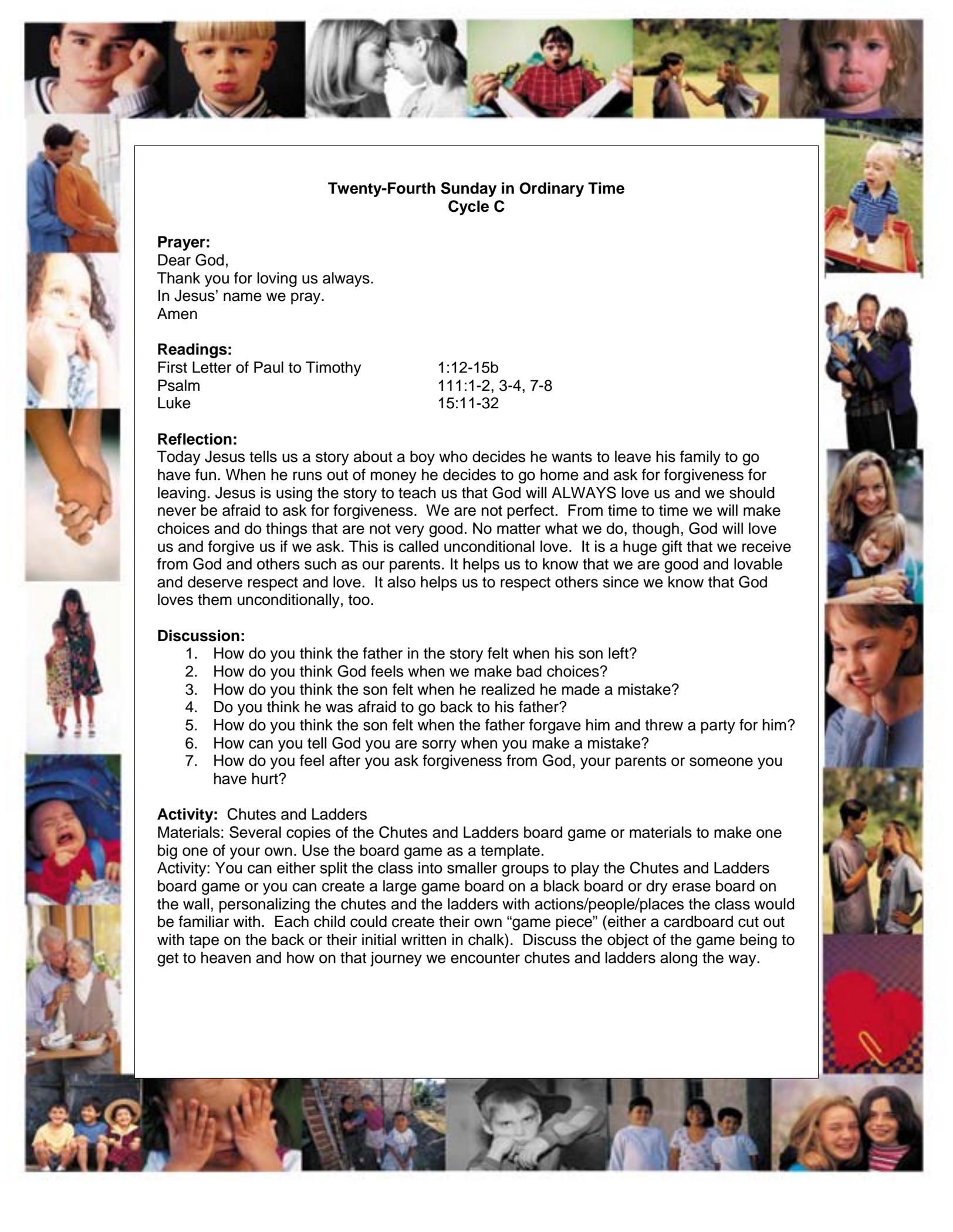
he heard the music and dancing.
So he called one of the servants over and asked,
'What's going on here?'

"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.



Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C

Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you for loving us always.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Readings:

First Letter of Paul to Timothy	1:12-15b
Psalm	111:1-2, 3-4, 7-8
Luke	15:11-32

Reflection:

Today Jesus tells us a story about a boy who decides he wants to leave his family to go have fun. When he runs out of money he decides to go home and ask for forgiveness for leaving. Jesus is using the story to teach us that God will ALWAYS love us and we should never be afraid to ask for forgiveness. We are not perfect. From time to time we will make choices and do things that are not very good. No matter what we do, though, God will love us and forgive us if we ask. This is called unconditional love. It is a huge gift that we receive from God and others such as our parents. It helps us to know that we are good and lovable and deserve respect and love. It also helps us to respect others since we know that God loves them unconditionally, too.

Discussion:

1. How do you think the father in the story felt when his son left?
2. How do you think God feels when we make bad choices?
3. How do you think the son felt when he realized he made a mistake?
4. Do you think he was afraid to go back to his father?
5. How do you think the son felt when the father forgave him and threw a party for him?
6. How can you tell God you are sorry when you make a mistake?
7. How do you feel after you ask forgiveness from God, your parents or someone you have hurt?

Activity: Chutes and Ladders

Materials: Several copies of the Chutes and Ladders board game or materials to make one big one of your own. Use the board game as a template.

Activity: You can either split the class into smaller groups to play the Chutes and Ladders board game or you can create a large game board on a black board or dry erase board on the wall, personalizing the chutes and the ladders with actions/people/places the class would be familiar with. Each child could create their own "game piece" (either a cardboard cut out with tape on the back or their initial written in chalk). Discuss the object of the game being to get to heaven and how on that journey we encounter chutes and ladders along the way.