

## Readings: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:9

Wrath and anger are hateful things,  
yet the sinner hugs them tight.  
The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance,  
for he remembers their sins in detail.  
Forgive your neighbor's injustice;  
then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.  
Could anyone nourish anger against another  
and expect healing from the LORD?  
Could anyone refer his mercy to another like himself,  
can he then expect it for his own sins?  
If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath,  
who will forgive his sins?  
Remember your last days, set enmity aside;  
remember death and decay, and cease from sin!  
Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor;

remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

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Responsorial Psalm: Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

R. (8) The Lord is kind and merciful,  
slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

R. (8) The Lord is kind and merciful,  
slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He pardons all your iniquities,  
heals all your ills,  
redeems your life from destruction,  
he crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R. (8) The Lord is kind and merciful,  
slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

He will not always chide,  
nor does he keep his wrath forever.  
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,  
nor does he require us according to our crimes.

R. (8) The Lord is kind and merciful,

slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

R. (8) The Lord is kind and merciful,

slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

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Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Brothers and sisters, none of us lives for himself, nor dies for himself. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Either in life or in death, we belong to the Lord; Christ experienced death and life to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

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**Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35**

Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive the offenses of my brother or sister? Seven times?" Jesus answered, "No, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

"This story throws light on the kingdom of heaven. A king decided to settle the accounts of his servants. Among the first was one who owed him ten thousand gold ingots. As the man could not repay the debt, the king commanded that he be sold as a slave with his wife, children and all his goods in payment.

"The official threw himself at the feet of the king and said, 'Give me time, and I will pay you back everything.' The king took pity on him and not only set him free but even canceled his debt.

"This official then left the king's presence and he met one of his companions who owed him a hundred pieces of silver. He grabbed him by the neck and almost strangled him, shouting, 'Pay me what you owe!' His companion threw himself at his feet and asked him, 'Give me time, and I will pay everything.' The other did not agree, but sent him to prison until he had paid all his debt."

"His companions saw what happened. They were indignant and so they went and reported everything to their lord. Then the lord summoned his official and said, 'Wicked servant, I forgave you all that you owed when you begged me to do so. Weren't you bound to have pity on your companion as I had pity on you?' The lord was now angry, so he handed his servant over to be punished, until he had paid his whole debt."

Jesus added, "So will my heavenly Father do with you unless each of you sincerely forgive your brother or sister."

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