

# TODAY'S MASS

17th September 2023

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,  
that your prophets be found true.  
Hear the prayers of your servant,  
and of your people Israel.

Cf. Sir 36: 18

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## THE COLLECT

Look upon us, O God,  
Creator and ruler of all things,  
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,  
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! 1Sam 3:9; Jn 6:68  
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!

Or

Alleluia, alleluia! Jn13:34  
I give you a new commandment:  
love one another just as I have loved you,  
says the Lord.  
Alleluia!

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are  
found with the sinner.  
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of  
the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.  
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you  
pray, your sins will be forgiven.  
If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand  
compassion from the Lord?  
Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for  
his own sins?  
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment, who will  
forgive him his sins?  
Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember  
dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.  
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your  
neighbour ill-will;  
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the  
offence.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive  
my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus  
answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king  
who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the  
reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten  
thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master  
gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and  
children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the  
servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time"  
he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master  
felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt.  
Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow  
servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him  
by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me"  
he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him,  
saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would  
not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he  
should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed  
when they saw what had happened, and they went to their  
master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master  
sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that  
debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound,  
then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on  
you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the  
torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my  
heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your  
brother from your heart.'

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

## PSALM

Psalm 102:1-4,9-12

R) The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. (R)

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R)

His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults. (R)

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins. (R)

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord,  
and in your kindness accept these, your servants' offerings,  
that what each has offered to the honour of your name may  
serve the salvation of all.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 35: 8

How precious is your mercy, O God!  
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your  
wings.

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if  
we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord,  
so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why  
Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord  
both of the dead and of the living.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray,  
take possession of our minds and bodies,  
so that its effects, and not our own desires,  
may always prevail in us.  
Through Christ our Lord.

