

**First Reading:** A reading from the Book of Sirach

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 refuse mercy to another like himself,  
can he seek pardon 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.

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**R. 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. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

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

**R. 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 requite us according to our crimes.

**R. 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. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

**Second Reading:** A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,

and if we die, we die for the Lord;

so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,

that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Peter approached Jesus and asked him,  
“Lord, if my brother sins against me,  
how often must I forgive?  
As many as seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants.

When he began the accounting,  
a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount.

Since he had no way of paying it back,  
his master ordered him to be sold,  
along with his wife, his children, and all his property,  
in payment of the debt.

At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said,  
‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’

Moved with compassion the master of that servant  
let him go and forgave him the loan.

When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants  
who owed him a much smaller amount.

He seized him and started to choke him, demanding,  
‘Pay back what you owe.’

Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him,  
‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

But he refused.

Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair.

His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant!

I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?'

Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt.

So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

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

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,  
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,  
OF ALL THINGS VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE.  
I BELIEVE IN ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD,  
BORN OF THE FATHER BEFORE ALL AGES.  
GOD FROM GOD, LIGHT FROM LIGHT,  
TRUE GOD FROM TRUE GOD,  
BEGOTTEN, NOT MADE, CONSUBSTANTIAL  
WITH THE FATHER;  
THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE.  
FOR US MEN AND FOR OUR SALVATION  
HE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN,  
AND BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS INCARNATE  
OF THE VIRGIN MARY,  
AND BECAME MAN.  
FOR OUR SAKE HE WAS CRUCIFIED  
UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,  
HE SUFFERED DEATH AND WAS BURIED,  
AND ROSE AGAIN ON THE THIRD DAY  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES.  
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN  
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER.  
HE WILL COME AGAIN IN GLORY  
TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD  
AND HIS KINGDOM WILL HAVE NO END.  
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
THE LORD, THE GIVER OF LIFE,  
WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON,  
WHO WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON  
IS ADORED AND GLORIFIED,  
WHO HAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHETS.  
I BELIEVE IN ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC,  
AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH.  
I CONFESS ONE BAPTISM FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS  
AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE RESURRECTION  
OF THE DEAD AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME.  
AMEN.

## Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly  
to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

*Amen.*