

Mass Readings

First Reading (Sirach 27:30 – 28:7)

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.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

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

Second Reading (Romans 14: 7-9)

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.



Gospel Reading (Matthew 18: 21-35)

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."

Mass Music

Gathering: The Master Came to Bring Good News

1. The Master came to bring good news, the news of love and freedom,
To heal the sick and seek the poor, to build the peaceful kingdom.

Father, forgive us! Through Jesus hear us! As we forgive one another!

2. The Law's fulfilled through Jesus Christ, the man who lived for others.
The law of Christ is: Serve in love our sisters and our brothers.

Offertory: The Servant Song

1. Will you let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

Communion: Behold the Lamb

1. Those who were in the dark are thankful for the sunlight;
We who live, we who die are grateful for this gift, thankful for God's love.

*Behold, behold the Lamb of God. All who eat, all who drink shall love;
And all, all who dwell in God, shall come to know God's glory!*

2. Peaceful now, those whose hearts are blessed with understanding
Of the wheat, of the wine united with God's word and the love we share.
3. Gentle one, Child of God, join with us at this table.
Bless our lives; nourish all who hunger for this feast; shelter them with peace.

Closing: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.
2. Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, To endless years the same.

