

**FIRST READING**

Wisdom 12:13, 16–19

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

**T**here is no God but you,  
and you care for all of us.  
You don't have to prove that you judge fairly.

Your strength gives you the power to do right,  
and because you rule over all,  
you have pity on everyone.

When someone doubts how strong you are,  
you show your strength.  
And you correct everyone who is too proud.

You are a powerful Master.  
But you judge us with kindness and rule with great mercy,  
because you have the power to do whatever you want.

By doing such things,  
you have taught your people  
that those who do right must also care about others.  
And you have given your children a wonderful hope  
by helping them turn from sin.

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 86:5–6, 15–16de*

**All:** *Lord, you are good and forgiving.*

*You willingly forgive,  
and your love is always there  
for those who pray to you.  
Please listen, LORD!  
Answer my prayer for help.*

**All:** *Lord, you are good and forgiving.*

*You, the LORD God,  
are kind and merciful.  
You don't easily get angry,  
and your love  
can always be trusted.  
Look on me with kindness.  
Make me strong and save me.*

**All:** *Lord, you are good and forgiving.*

**SECOND READING**

Romans 8:26–27

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and sisters:

In certain ways we are weak,

but the Spirit is here to help us.

For example, when we don't know what to pray for,

the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words.

All of our thoughts are known to God.

He can understand what is in the mind of the Spirit,

as the Spirit prays for God's people.

**The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL**  
Matthew 13:24–30

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus told his disciples this story:

“The kingdom of heaven is like what happened  
when a farmer scattered good seed in a field.  
But while everyone was sleeping,  
an enemy came and scattered weed seeds in the field and then left.  
When the plants came up and began to ripen,  
the farmer’s servants could see the weeds.

“The servants came and asked,  
‘Sir, didn’t you scatter good seed in your field?  
Where did these weeds come from?’  
‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“His servants then asked,  
‘Do you want us to go out and pull up the weeds?’  
‘No!’ he answered.  
‘You might also pull up the wheat.  
Leave the weeds alone until harvest time.  
Then I’ll tell my workers to gather the weeds  
and tie them up and burn them.  
But I’ll have them store the wheat in my barn.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**