

FIRST READING

Sirach 28:2-5, 6b-7

A reading from the book of Sirach

If you forgive your friends when they mistreat you,
your prayers will be answered and your sins forgiven.
If you stay angry with someone,
don't expect the Lord to heal you.
Don't ask God to forgive you,
if you don't have pity on others.
God won't forgive you,
if you stay angry at someone.

So stop holding grudges and start obeying God.
Think about the commands and the promise of God Most High.
Then forget about the sins and the ignorance of others.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 11–12

All: *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

*With all my heart
I praise the LORD,
and with all that I am
I praise his holy name!
With all my heart
I praise the LORD!
I will never forget
how kind he has been.*

All: *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

*The LORD forgives our sins,
heals us when we are sick,
and protects us from death.
His kindness and love
are a crown on our heads.*

All: *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

*How great is God's love for all
who worship him?
Greater than the distance
between heaven and earth!
How far has the LORD taken
our sins from us?
Farther than the distance
from east to west!*

All: *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

September 13, 2020
Twenty-Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time (A)



SECOND READING

Romans 14:7–9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:
Whether we live or die,
it must be for God, rather than for ourselves.
Whether we live or die,
it must be for the Lord.
Alive or dead,
we still belong to the Lord.
This is because Christ died and rose to life,
so that he would be the Lord of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

The Lectionary for Masses with Children uses the following: Readings from the Old Testament, Book of Psalms, and a select number of the refrains for the responsorial psalms are taken from the *Contemporary English Version* ©1991 by the American Bible Society. Readings from the New Testament are taken from the *Contemporary English Version, Bible for Today's Family: New Testament* ©1991 by the American Bible Society. Used with permission.

GOSPEL
Matthew 18:21–35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Peter came up to the Lord and asked,
“How many times should I forgive someone
who does something wrong to me?
Is seven times enough?”

Jesus answered:
“Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!
This story will show you what the kingdom of heaven is like:

“One day a king decided to call in his officials
and ask them to give an account of what they owed him.
As he was doing this,
one official was brought in
who owed him fifty million silver coins.
But he didn’t have any money to pay what he owed.
The king ordered him to be sold,
along with his wife and children and all he owned,
in order to pay the debt.

“The official got down on his knees and began begging,
‘Have pity on me, and I will pay you every cent I owe!’
The king felt sorry for him and let him go free.
He even told the official
that he did not have to pay back the money.

“As the official was leaving,
he happened to meet another official,
who owed him a hundred silver coins.
So he grabbed the man by the throat.
He started choking him and said, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

(Continued)

GOSPEL
Matthew 18:21–35

“The man got down on his knees and began begging,
‘Have pity on me, and I will pay you back.’
But the first official refused to have pity.
Instead, he went and had the other official put in jail
until he could pay what he owed.

“When some other officials found out what had happened,
they felt sorry for the man who had been put in jail.

“Then they told the king what had happened.
The king called the first official back in and said,
‘You’re an evil man!
When you begged for mercy,
I said you did not have to pay back a cent.
Don’t you think you should show pity to someone else,
as I did to you?’

“The king was so angry that he ordered the official to be tortured
until he could pay back everything he owed.
That is how my Father in heaven will treat you,
if you don’t forgive each of my followers
with all your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.