

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 27:28 – 28:1–7

A reading from the book of Sirach.

Wrath and anger are hateful things,
yet the sinner hugs them tight.
The vengeful will suffer YHWH's vengeance,
for the Most High remembers their sins in detail.
Forgive your neighbors when they offend you,
then you will be forgiven when you pray.
When we tend our anger against another,
how can we expect compassion from YHWH?
If we refuse mercy to our neighbor,
can we ever seek YHWH's forgiveness for our sins?
If mere mortals cherish rage,
to whom will they turn for forgiveness
Meditate on the last things, and end your quarrelling;
meditate on your end, and stop sinning.
Meditate on the commandments, and do not hate your neighbor;
meditate on YHWH's covenant, and forgive all who offend you.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

We do not live for ourselves, nor do we die for ourselves. While we live, we live for Christ Jesus, and when we die, we die for Christ Jesus. Both in life and in death we belong to Christ. That is why Christ died and came to life again—in order to reign supreme over both the living and the dead.

The Word of God. R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA!

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Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Peter came up and asked Jesus, “When a sister or brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?”

“No,” Jesus replied, “not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven. And here’s why:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt.

“At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, ‘I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full.’ Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt.

“Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars.

The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, ‘Pay back what you owe!’

“The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, ‘Just give me time and I will pay you back in full.’ But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor’s prison until the money was paid.

“When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved, and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. The ruler sent for the first official and said, ‘You worthless wretch! I canceled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?’ Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had been paid in full.

“My Abba in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive your sisters and brothers from your hearts.”

The Good News of Salvation!
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!