

## Reading for 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary time - A

### Reading 1, *Sirach 27:30-28:7*

<sup>30</sup> Resentment and anger, these are foul things too, and a sinner is a master at them both. <sup>1</sup> Whoever exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. <sup>2</sup> Pardon your neighbour any wrongs done to you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. <sup>3</sup> If anyone nurses anger against another, can one then demand compassion from the Lord? <sup>4</sup> Showing no pity for someone like oneself, can one then plead for one's own sins? <sup>5</sup> Mere creature of flesh, yet cherishing resentment!- who will forgive one for sinning? <sup>6</sup> Remember the last things, and stop hating, corruption and death, and be faithful to the commandments. <sup>7</sup> Remember the commandments, and do not bear your fellow ill-will, remember the covenant of the Most High, and ignore the offence.

### Responsorial Psalm, *Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12*

<sup>1</sup> [Of David] Bless Yahweh, my soul, from the depths of my being, his holy name; <sup>2</sup> bless Yahweh, my soul, never forget all his acts of kindness.

<sup>3</sup> He forgives all your offences, cures all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> he redeems your life from the abyss, crowns you with faithful love and tenderness;

<sup>9</sup> his indignation does not last for ever, nor his resentment remain for all time; <sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve, nor repay us as befits our offences.

<sup>11</sup> As the height of heaven above earth, so strong is his faithful love for those who fear him. <sup>12</sup> As the distance of east from west, so far from us does he put our faults.

### **Reading 2, *Romans 14:7-9***

<sup>7</sup> For none of us lives for himself and none of us dies for himself; <sup>8</sup> while we are alive, we are living for the Lord, and when we die, we die for the Lord: and so, alive or dead, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup> It was for this purpose that Christ both died and came to life again: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

## **Gospel, *Matthew 18:21-35***

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter went up to him and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?'

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup> 'And so the kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants.

<sup>24</sup> When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; <sup>25</sup> he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt.

<sup>26</sup> At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet, with the words, "Be patient with me and I will pay the whole sum." <sup>27</sup> And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. <sup>28</sup> Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow-servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him, saying, "Pay what you owe me." <sup>29</sup> His fellow-servant fell at his feet and appealed to him, saying, "Be patient with me and I will pay you." <sup>30</sup> But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> His fellow-servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. <sup>32</sup> Then the master sent for the man and said to him, "You wicked servant, I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me.

<sup>33</sup> Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow-servant just as I had pity on you?" <sup>34</sup> And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all

his debt. <sup>35</sup> And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'