

**Sunday, September 17, 2023**  
**The 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 1) Sirach 27:30–28:7
- 2) Romans 14:7-9
- 3) Matthew 18:21-35

**FOCUS:** We cannot claim forgiveness only for ourselves; God's mercy is for all.

We are all the same flesh: fellow sinners, servants, and debtors, and God's mercy is for us all. We cannot seek pardon for ourselves yet refuse mercy to others. We must forgive as we have been forgiven. In the community of God's covenant, mercy is shared, *not seven times but seventy-seven times*, as Jesus teaches.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The first reading teaches that in order to be forgiven, one must forgive. In the second reading, Paul teaches that none of us lives and dies for oneself, but together for the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the debtor who refuses to share with others the mercy he has been shown by his master.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** Let us bring our prayers before our Lord who is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may continue to lead the Church in the way of God's love and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That the world may be united by Jesus, the one bread come down from heaven to save us all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That all who are hungry may receive their fill through the outpouring of the over-abundant love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That those of us gathered here may seek opportunities to help someone who is in need of our time, talent or treasure, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died in the company of the Lord may soon find eternal rest in his heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** God most high, hear the prayers we have brought before you and in your great mercy answer them, we pray, through Christ our Lord.