

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,  
that your prophets be found true.  
Hear the prayers of your servant,  
and of your people Israel.*

**COLLECT**

Look upon us, O God,  
Creator and ruler of all things,  
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,  
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
*Amen.*

**FIRST READING** Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.  
Resentment and anger, these are foul things,  
and both are found with the sinner.  
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the  
Lord,  
who keeps strict account of sin.  
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,  
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.  
If a man nurses anger against another,  
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?  
Showing no pity for a man like himself,  
can he then plead for his own sins?  
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;  
who will forgive him his sins?  
Remember the last things, and stop hating,  
remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.  
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour  
ill-will;  
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the  
offence.  
The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM** Psalm 102

**RESPONSE:** *The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. *R.*
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. *R.*
3. His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults. *R.*
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins. *R.*

**SECOND READING** Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.  
The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live,  
we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive  
or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died  
and came to life. It was so that he might be Lord both of the dead  
and of the living.  
The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!*

Or

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
I give you a new commandment:  
love one another, just as I have loved you,  
says the Lord.  
Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
Peter went up to Jesus and said, "Lord, how often must I forgive  
my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" Jesus  
answered, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times."  
"And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king  
who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the  
reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand  
talents; but 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. At this, the servant threw  
himself down at his master's feet. 'Give me time,' he said, 'and I  
will pay the whole sum.' And the servant's master felt so sorry for  
him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. 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. 'Pay what you owe me,' he said. His fellow servant  
fell at his feet and implored him, saying, 'Give me time and  
I will pay you.' But the other would not agree; on the contrary,  
he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. 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. Then the master sent for him. 'You wicked servant,'  
he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to  
me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant  
just as I had pity on you?' And in his anger the master handed  
him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is  
how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive  
your brother from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord,  
and in your kindness accept these, your servants' offerings,  
that what each has offered to the honour of your name  
may serve the salvation of all.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*How precious is your mercy, O God!  
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your  
wings.*

Or

*The chalice of blessing that we bless  
is a communion in the Blood of Christ;  
and the bread that we break  
is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray,  
take possession of our minds and bodies,  
so that its effects, and not our own desires,  
may always prevail in us.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

