

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant that your faithful, O Lord,  
whom you nourish and endow with life  
through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament,  
may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts  
that we may merit an eternal share in his life.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *cf Sirach 36:18*

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.

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## 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*

*Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*

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.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalms 102:1–4, 9–12 response v 8*

**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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

SECOND READING *Romans 14:7–9*

*Alive or dead we belong to the Lord.*

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 *1 Samuel 3:9, John 6:68*

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

OR *John 13:34*

**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*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

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 this 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.**

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**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.**

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**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** *cf Psalm 35:8*

How precious is your mercy, O God!

The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

*Or cf 1 Corinthians 10:16*

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.

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**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.**

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**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME****ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.

Should they cry to me in any distress,

I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

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**COLLECT**

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law  
 upon love of you and of our neighbour,  
 grant that, by keeping your precepts,  
 we may merit to attain eternal life.

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** *Isaiah 55:6–9*

*My thoughts are not your thoughts.*

Seek the Lord while he is still to be  
 found, call to him while he is still near.  
 Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
 the evil man his thoughts. Let him

forgiving; for my thoughts are not your  
 thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is  
 the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens  
 are as high above earth as my ways are  
 above your ways, my thoughts above  
 your thoughts.