

**September 3, 2023: The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time****First Reading****Jeremiah 20:7-9**

You duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped; You were too strong for me, and You triumphed. All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; the word of the LORD has brought me derision and reproach all the day. I say to myself, I will not mention Him, I will speak in His Name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9**

**R. (2b) My soul is thirsting for You, O Lord my God.**

O God, You are my God Whom I seek;  
for You my flesh pines and my soul thirsts  
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

**R. My soul is thirsting for You, O Lord my God.**

Thus have I gazed toward You in the sanctuary  
to see Your power and Your glory,  
For Your kindness is a greater good than life;  
my lips shall glorify You.

**R. My soul is thirsting for You, O Lord my God.**

Thus will I bless You while I live;  
lifting up my hands, I will call upon Your Name.  
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be  
satisfied,  
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise You.

**R. My soul is thirsting for You, O Lord my God.**

You are my help,  
and in the shadow of Your wings I shout for joy.  
My soul clings fast to You;  
Your right hand upholds me.

**R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

**Second Reading****Romans 12:1-2**

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

**Gospel Reading****Matthew 16:21-27**

Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to You." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an obstacle to Me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with His angels in His Father's glory, and then He will repay all according to his conduct."

Gospel readings source: [www.usccb.org/bible/readings/](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/)

Find fun, free, and faithful children's activities including our Mass Prep videos at [HolyHeroes.com/MassPrep](http://HolyHeroes.com/MassPrep)

© 2023 Holy Heroes LLC. All rights reserved

**September 10, 2023: The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary**

**Time**

**First Reading**

**Ezekiel 33:7-9**

Thus says the LORD:

You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear Me say anything, you shall warn them for Me. If I tell the wicked, "O wicked one, you shall surely die," and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death. But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9**

**R. (8) If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;  
let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to Him.

**R. If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For He is our God,  
and we are the people He shepherds, the flock He guides.

**R. If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.**

Oh, that today you would hear His voice:

"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the day of Massah in the desert,  
Where your fathers tempted Me;

they tested Me though they had seen My works."

**R. If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.**

**Second Reading**

**Romans 13:8-10**

Brothers and sisters:

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 18:15-20**

Jesus said to His disciples:

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by My heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them."

Gospel readings source: [www.usccb.org/bible/readings/](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/)

Find fun, free, and faithful children's activities including our Mass Prep videos at [HolyHeroes.com/MassPrep](http://HolyHeroes.com/MassPrep)

© 2023 Holy Heroes LLC. All rights reserved

**September 14, 2023: Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross****First Reading****Numbers 21:4b-9**

With their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food!"

In punishment the LORD sent among the people saraph serpents, which bit the people so that many of them died. Then the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray the LORD to take the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses, "Make a saraph and mount it on a pole, and if any who have been bitten look at it, they will live." Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38****R. (see 7b) Do not forget the works of the Lord!**

Hearken, my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable,  
I will utter mysteries from of old.

**R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!**

While he slew them they sought him  
and inquired after God again,  
Remembering that God was their rock  
and the Most High God, their Redeemer.

**R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!**

But they flattered Him with their mouths  
and lied to Him with their tongues,  
Though their hearts were not steadfast

toward Him,  
nor were they faithful to His covenant.

**R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!**

But He, being merciful, forgave their sin  
and destroyed them not;

Often He turned back His anger  
and let none of His wrath be roused.

**R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!****Second Reading****Philippians 2:6-11**

Brothers and sisters:

Christ Jesus, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a Cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Gospel Reading****John 3:13-17**

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"No one has gone up to Heaven except the One Who has come down from Heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Gospel readings source: [www.usccb.org/bible/readings/](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/)

**September 17, 2023: The 24th Sunday in Ordinary**

**Time**

**First Reading**

**Sirach 27:30—28:7**

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for He remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

**Responsorial Psalm**

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

**R. (8) The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless His holy Name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all His benefits.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

He pardons all your iniquities,  
heals all your ills.

He redeems your life from destruction,  
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

He will not always chide,  
nor does He keep His wrath forever.

Not according to our sins does He deal with us,  
nor does He requite us according to our crimes.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so surpassing is His kindness toward those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has He put our transgressions from us.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

Gospel readings source: [www.usccb.org/bible/readings/](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/)

Find fun, free, and faithful children's activities including our Mass Prep videos at [HolyHeroes.com/MassPrep](http://HolyHeroes.com/MassPrep)

© 2023 Holy Heroes LLC. All rights reserved

**September 17, 2023: The 24th Sunday in Ordinary**

**Time**

**(continued)**

**Second Reading**

**Romans 14:7-9**

Brothers and sisters:

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

Peter approached Jesus and asked Him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the Kingdom of Heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will My heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

---

Gospel readings source: [www.usccb.org/bible/readings/](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/)

Find fun, free, and faithful children's activities including our Mass Prep videos at [HolyHeroes.com/MassPrep](http://HolyHeroes.com/MassPrep)

© 2023 Holy Heroes LLC. All rights reserved

**September 24, 2023: The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 55:6-9**

Seek the LORD while He may be found, call Him while He is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are My ways above your ways and My thoughts above your thoughts.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18**

**R. (18a) The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.**

Every day will I bless You,  
and I will praise Your Name forever and ever.  
Great is the LORD and highly to be praised;  
His greatness is unsearchable.

**R. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The LORD is good to all  
and compassionate toward all His works.

**R. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.**

The LORD is just in all His ways  
and holy in all His works.

The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,  
to all who call upon Him in truth.

**R. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.**

**Second Reading**

**Philippians 1:20C-24, 27A**

Brothers and sisters:

Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on

living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit. Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 20:1-16A**

Jesus told His disciples this parable: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.' When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Gospel readings source: [www.usccb.org/bible/readings/](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/)