



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

LITURGY OF THE WORD TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HYMN

Praise to the Lord

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in my adore him!
All that has life and breath come now in praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
Now as we worship before him.**

Joachim Neander, 1650—1680

INTRODUCTION

All sign themselves with the sign of the cross saying, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and home with peace.
Blessed be God for ever.

All respond: Blessed be God for ever.

Sing or recite the *Gloria* together:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray,

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.

READINGS

It is encouraged that someone other than the leader should proclaim the readings of the day from a Bible. Otherwise, daily readings may be found at uscgb.org/bible/readings, and audio recordings of the daily readings may be found at uscgb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm.

First reading: Sirach 27:30—28:7

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

Refrain (all together): **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.

Refrain (all together): **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.

Refrain (all together): **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.

Refrain (all together): **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.

Refrain (all together): **The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel (All stand for the reading of the Gospel. A layperson omits the greeting, “The Lord be with you” and proceeds to “A reading from the holy Gospel According to”): Matthew 18:21-35

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

This week we have a reflection from Fr. Ray Clark:

A number of years ago I felt that a brother priest had betrayed me. For two years I nursed hatred in my heart toward him. As Advent approached one year, it seemed time to let go of the hate. At the same time I came across the book: *Everybody Needs to Forgive Somebody*, by Allen Hunt. Allen, as you may know, was a Methodist pastor who became Catholic and now writes and speaks for Matthew Kelly's Dynamic Catholic program.

The book contains twelve stories of people who have forgiven—the print is large, the stories are short (my kind of book!). The stories divide into those who have forgiven others, themselves, and God.

The story that grabbed my heart was that of a black South African woman whose husband had been murdered by a white South African policeman. Ten years after murdering the woman's husband, the officer returned and murdered the woman's son and burned his body. After Nelson Mandela became president of South Africa, Truth sessions were held. The officer was one of those on trial. At the end of the proceeding, the woman forgave the officer and asked only that he visit her monthly—he obviously had not known love, to be capable of doing what he had done to her husband and son. She asked for the opportunity to love him.

As I read of how she had forgiven, I forgave. My grievance paled in comparison to those she had lost. I am grateful that God put this book into my hands and provided me a path of action to follow. God has removed from me any vestiges of the hatred that I carried.

Everybody needs to Forgive Somebody is a wonderful resource from Dynamic Catholic. I often bring along several copies as I hear confession to give to those who also struggle to forgive.

Additionally, you can also find video reflections from the USCCB on the readings here:
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>.

Observe a period of silence for reflection on the Word of God. You may want to ask the following questions:

What word or phrase is stirring in your heart?
How can you apply this message to your daily life?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us give glory to the great God, presenting our needs with trust and confidence.

You or members of your family can be invited to speak out their intercessions, to which all reply, “Lord, hear our prayer.” It would be good to include a prayer for the end of the coronavirus pandemic and a return to public Sunday Eucharist.

Leader: God of infinite mercy, hear the prayers of your people — who give praise for all the good things that come from you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response: Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Make a prayer of thanksgiving. This can be your own personal prayer of thanksgiving, a canticle of praise from scripture, or you may choose one of the following Psalms: Psalm 100; Psalm 113; Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29; Psalm 136; Psalm 150

CONCLUDING RITE

In solidarity with our diocese, here you could include Pope Francis’ prayer to Mary for protection against the coronavirus found at the beginning of the *Diocese of Owensboro Prayer Companion*.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All sign themselves with the cross.

Response: Amen

As an option here, you could add “Let us offer each other the sign of peace,” extending a sign of Christ’s peace to your loved ones by way of a hug, kiss, or whatever would be most appropriate for your situation.

HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.**

Henry Lyte, 1793—1847

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