

XXIV SUNDAY

13th OF SEPTEMBER 2026 – CYCLE A



ALWAYS COMPASSION

Today, the Word asks us about our unsettled accounts: the offenses we have filed away with names and dates, the debts others owe us that we refuse to forget. But before asking us to forgive, God reminds us that we were forgiven first—that we were on our knees when hands lifted us up, asking nothing in return. Let us hear this Word not as yet another demand, but as an invitation to remember whose children we are.

SONG. THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnOFh9WFe6k>

GOSPEL – MATHEW 18, 21 – 35

At that time, Peter approached Jesus and asked him: "Lord, how many times must I forgive the offenses my brother commits against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him: "I do not tell you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. And he told them this parable: The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began to settle them, a man was brought before him who owed him ten thousand talents. Since he had no means to pay, the master ordered that he, his wife, his children, and all he possessed be sold, and that payment be made. Then the servant fell at his feet and, prostrating himself, said: 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' Moved with compassion, the servant's master set him free and forgave him the debt. Upon leaving, that servant met one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; he grabbed him and, choking him, said: 'Pay what you owe.' His fellow servant fell at his feet and pleaded with him: 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; instead, he went and had him thrown into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply distressed and went to tell their master everything that had occurred. Then his master summoned him and said: 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me to. Shouldn't you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' And in anger, his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back everything he owed. My heavenly Father will do the same to you if each of you does not forgive your brother from the heart.

To delve deeper into the Word

Ecle 27, 30-28,7. Ben Sira tells us that forgiveness consists not in ignoring a past that cannot be ignored, but in rising above the offense.

Psalms 102, 1-12. Ben Sira tells us that forgiveness consists not in ignoring a past that cannot be ignored, but in rising above the offense.

Rom. 14,7-9. The passage from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans, which the Church's liturgy presents to us today, reinforces the other texts: "We belong to the Lord. None of us lives for himself, and none dies for himself"—in other words, we are not isolated individuals!

Matthew 18, 21 – 35. Finally, Matthew's parable is presented as a story in three acts: Act 1, the king settles accounts with his servants, and one is brought before him who owes him an enormous sum. Logically and legally, the verdict is imprisonment for debt, for him and his entire family, until they have all worked long enough to repay the debt—the sum was so large that it would have taken many lifetimes to reach that point. The debtor pleads for a reprieve. The debtor pleads for a reprieve, and the king takes pity on him, lets him go, and tells him, "You owe me nothing." Act 2: the same servant does the opposite with a debtor of his own; over a trivial debt, he refuses to hear of compassion or extensions of time; he ignores his fellow servant and has him imprisoned. Act 3: the king reproaches him for his hard-heartedness: "Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?" This is, first and foremost, a parable about God's mercy—a mercy that seeks only to forgive all our debts; a mercy that ought to "influence" us in some way, given that we were created in the image and likeness of God. Yet this mercy does not come naturally to us, as Peter's question confirms: "Lord, when my brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus replies, "Up to seventy times seven." With this, Jesus invites Peter and the disciples to reach the ultimate stage—the stage of limitless forgiveness—just as He Himself would live it out on the Cross.

I pray with the Word

Boundless forgiveness—what and whom do I need to forgive from the heart in my life in order to be merciful, just as God is merciful?



SAD CELLO MELODY

<https://youtu.be/mh094YhoCyE?si=XosAh-qvPqc4UJ5j>

SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN

Today I ask myself how many debts I keep stored within my skin, how many names I repeat like an open wound.

I have been forgiven so much that I no longer even recall it—a mother's patience, a friend's silence, the time freely given to me.

Seventy times seven is not a number to be counted; it is a heart that never tires, it is starting overreach morning.

Today I choose to look at the one who owes me something not as a creditor, but as a brother who also makes mistakes.

I will lower the closed hand that holds onto old scores, I will loosen the clenched fist, and I will learn, slowly, to walk in freedom.

May my home be a place

where offenses are undone, may my table have room for the one who asks forgiveness and for the one who needs it.

Today I commit to harbouring no grudge behind a wall of silence, to calling by name the one I had ceased to name.

May my life be a memory filled with gratitude, hands that open doors, and a living gospel that becomes both furrow and seed.

SONG. WILL BE FAITHFUL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfW9sqf7xpl>



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