

## Bible readings 13 September

### The first reading is from Romans 14:1-14

Welcome those who are weak in faith,<sup>[a]</sup> but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord<sup>[b]</sup> is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister?<sup>[c]</sup> Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister?<sup>[d]</sup> For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God.<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to<sup>[f]</sup> God.'

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.<sup>[g]</sup>

<sup>13</sup>Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another.<sup>[h]</sup> <sup>14</sup>I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

This is the word of the Lord: **thanks be to God**

### The Holy Gospel is written in the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of the gospel according to St Matthew, commencing at the 21<sup>st</sup> verse

#### Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church<sup>[a]</sup> sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven<sup>[b]</sup> times.

<sup>23</sup>'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents<sup>[c]</sup> was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him

the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii;<sup>[d]</sup> and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister<sup>[e]</sup> from your heart.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**