



Celebrate

Sunday, September 13, 2020
15th Sunday after Pentecost

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

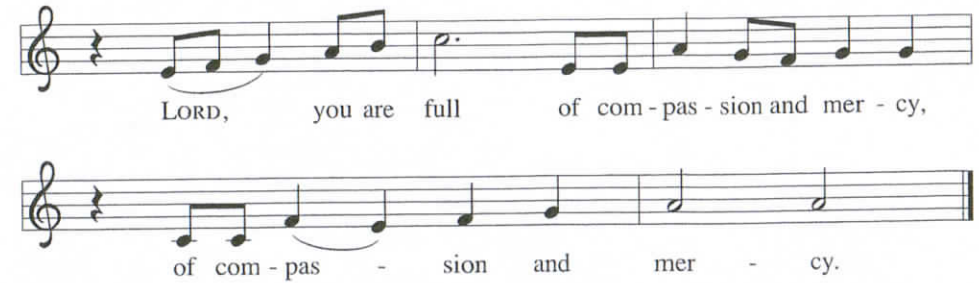
After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when

they spoke to him.¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Psalm

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; refrain, Ps. 103:8



[Bless the LORD, ¹ O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's ¹ holy name.
² Bless the LORD, ¹ O my soul,
and forget not ¹ all God's benefits—
³ who forgives ¹ all your sins
and heals all ¹ your diseases;
⁴ who redeems your life ¹ from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast ¹ love and mercy; **R**
⁵ who satisfies your desires ¹ with good things
so that your youth is renewed ¹ like an eagle's.
⁶ O LORD, you provide ¹ vindication
and justice for all who ¹ are oppressed.
⁷ You made known your ¹ ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- ¹ dren of Israel.]
⁸ LORD, you are full of compas- ¹ sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love; **R**
⁹ you will not al- ¹ ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- ¹ ger forever.
¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according ¹ to our sins,
nor repaid us according to ¹ our iniquities.
¹¹ For as the heavens are high a- ¹ bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for ¹ those who fear you.
¹² As far as the east is ¹ from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- ¹ sions from us.
¹³ As a father has compassion ¹ for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear ¹ you, O LORD. **R**