

August 18 – Relationships and Forgiveness

Genesis 45:1-15 | First Reading

A reading from Genesis

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' ¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his

brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 103:6-14

⁶O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.

⁷**You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.**

⁸LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

⁹**you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.**

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

¹¹**For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.**

¹²As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

¹³**As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you,**

O LORD.

¹⁴For you know well how | we are formed;
you remember that we | are but dust.

Romans 11:29-32 | Second Reading

A reading from Romans

²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 18:15-22 | Gospel Reading

The Holy gospel according to Matthew

15 “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. **16** But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17** If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. **18** Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. **19** Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

21 Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” **22** Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.”

The gospel of the Lord.