



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Sirach 27:30-28:7 Romans 14:7-9 Matthew 18:21-35

Thanks for being here.

In the gospel, the Lord teaches Peter – and us – how important it is to forgive; to forgive a person or circumstance. To forgive is not to forget, but it is a step forward.

It is so we are not defined by that person or circumstance. We are to be defined by the Lord's love for us with the cross being the ultimate sign of his love. Easier said than done for each of us, especially when the person that needs forgiveness is ourselves.

As I was wondering what to say this week, I was listening to music, as I always do and across the computer came the song "I Forgive It All." It's as if I had some divine help to move forward.

The song is by Tom Petty and done by his group called Mudcrutch. There is a powerful video of the song on You Tube with the main character Anthony Hopkins. I invite you to watch it.

So, this homily might be for only a few of us now and some of us "down the line".

The song is one of reflection and the need for forgiveness. The lyrics are:

Song: I Forgive It All by Mudcrutch (song by Tom Petty)

Take my horse down to the water
Let him graze awhile
Take my horse down to the water
Let him graze awhile
I have not been down these roads
Since I was a child

Verse

I ain't broke and I ain't hungry
But I'm close enough to care
I ain't broke and I ain't hungry
But I'm close enough to care
Send my things to my niece, Laura
She'll keep 'em for me there

Chorus

I forgive it all
I forgive it all
With her
I forgive it all

Verse

There ain't no money in this deal
I just tag along
There ain't no money in this deal
I just tag along
Some things I feel right
Somebody else thinks wrong

Chorus

I forgive it all
I forgive it all
With her
I forgive it all

Verse

People are what people make 'em
And that ain't gonna change
People are what people make 'em
That ain't gonna change
There ain't nothing you can do
Nothing you could rearrange

Chorus

But I forgive it all
I forgive it all
With her
I forgive it all

Outro

With her
I forgive it all

Taking the horse to the water means one is slowing down to look inside oneself. To see the ups and downs of one's life and appreciate the important relationships of life, in this case Laura.

To forgive it all is a release of emotion and a lifting of a weight that has been on his heart for so long. It is moving from a life of bitterness to one of understanding and compassion.

I invite us to go "down to the water" in our prayer and see where we need to offer the prayer "I forgive it all".

We will play the song after communion as a prayer for all of us who need to forgive something/someone who is running our lives a bit now, including ourselves. For those watching us on live stream I invite you to pull the song up later. We cannot play it live on the livestream due to copyright rules.

When we listen to the song, we will hear the words of Jesus say to us, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."

It's a big step, but our prayer can also be "I forgive it all" with the Lord's help.

Prayer: Bringing Home the Word