

September 12 - 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Readings

First Reading

A Reading from Genesis

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?"
So they approached Joseph, saying,
"Your father gave this instruction before he died,
'Say 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.
Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said,
"We are here as your slaves."
But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?
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.
So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones."
In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from Romans

Welcome those who are weak in faith
but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.
For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.
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.
For to this end Christ died and lived again,
so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
Why do you pass judgment on your sibling?
Or you, why do you despise your sibling?
For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.
For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord,
every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."
So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

Peter came and said to Jesus,
“Lord, if my sibling sins against me, how often should I forgive?
As many as seven times?”
Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.
“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made.

So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying,
‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’
And out of pity for him,
the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said,
‘Pay what you owe.’

Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him,
‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’
But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

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.
Then his lord summoned him and said to him,
‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’
And in anger his lord handed him over to be punished until he would pay his entire debt.
So God in heaven will also hold you accountable, if you do not forgive each other from your heart.”

Pastor: **The Gospel of the Lord.**
Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.