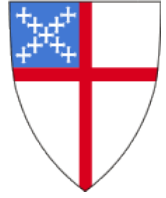


**Lessons for September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**



**First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21**

**Hear the Word of God as it is written in Genesis chapter 50 verses 15 to 21.**

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.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13**

**Let us all stand and read Psalm 103 verses 1 to 13.**

1

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

2

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

3

He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

4

He redeems your life from the grave and crowns you  
with mercy and loving-kindness;

5

He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

6

The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.

7

He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel.

8

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

9

He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded

us according to our wickedness.

11

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us.

13

As a father cares for his children, so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.**

## **Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**

### **Hear the Word of God as it is written in Romans chapter 14 verses 1 to 12.**

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

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. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

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 brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? 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 of us will be accountable to God.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**