**Genesis Chapter 50 verses 15~22**

**5**When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, ‘What if Joseph holds a grudge against us

and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?’

**16**So they sent word to Joseph, saying, ‘Your father left these instructions before he died:

**17**“This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.” Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.’

When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

**18**His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. ‘We are your slaves,’ they said.

**19**But Joseph said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God?  **20**You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.  **21**So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.’

And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

**22**Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father’s family. He lived a hundred and ten years

**Matthew Chapter 18 verses 21~35**

**21**Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother

who sins against me? Up to seven times?’

**22**Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

**23**‘Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king

who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

**24**As he began, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him.

**25**Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children

and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

**26**‘At this the servant fell on his knees before him. “Be patient with me,” he begged, “and I will pay back everything.”

**27**The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

**28**‘But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants

who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. “Pay back what you owe me!” he demanded.

**29**‘His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, “Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.” **30**‘But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

**31**When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged

and went and told their master everything that had happened.

**32**‘Then the master called the servant in. “You wicked servant,” he said,

“I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

**33**Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?”

**34**In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured,

until he should pay back all he owed.

**35**‘This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you

unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

**Food for Thought (***Rosamund E Herkelots (1905-1987)*

*“Forgive our sins as we forgive”, You taught us Lord, to pray;*

*But You alone can give us grace to live the words we say.*

*How can Your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart*

*That broods on wrongs, and will not let old bitterness depart?*

*In blazing light your Cross reveals the truth we dimly knew;*

*What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to You!*

*Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentments cease.*

*Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread Your peace.*

* As Jesus’ followers we are challenged to live out His Law of Love. Forgiveness is one key outworking of that rule. God’s “amazing grace”, freely given, is something we are to offer in His Name. This is not new with Jesus as we see in the example of Joseph, but Jesus lived it out and bid His disciples make it a primary principle. In The Lord’s Prayer we pray: “forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”. Easy to skate over! Our forgiveness follows that which we have first given to others.
* How seriously do we take Jesus’ words to forgive our enemies an infinite number of times? Relatively easy to forgive those we love, but those who have wronged us? It never was or will be easy; it takes His amazing Grace to help us follow through.
* In a list of children’s answers when asked “What is love?” Nikka age 4 said: “If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend you hate.” Wow!
* This is a challenge that will continue through life, every time we find ourselves crossed, ill~treated, opposed, hurt. But something we are called to embrace.
* Perhaps take time to think of those who have let you down, those who have hurt you, those it makes you angry to think of. Consciously taking time to ask Jesus to shine the light of His Love on your own negative feelings for them. Praying for them with love. Thinking of something that might help them. Often when we act with love the negative is eased and replaced. Sometimes we simply have to ask for God’s grace to continue to bear it! Either way, as we reach out in love we will be blessed.

This is part of the journey of life following The Way of the Cross in Jesus’ footsteps.

**WORSHIP for the 14th SUNDAY after TRINITY**

Your love Lord reaches to the heavens! And your faithfulness to the clouds

**We praise you Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

**HYMN:** Praise, my soul the King of Heaven **https://youtu.be/-n\_BPn5BxH4**

**TIME of CONFESSION**

*The last few week’s we’ve been hearing from St Paul’s challenging letter to the Romans.*

*Chapter 12 begins an outworking of the challenge God’s children are given to recognize and turn our backs on the world’s ways and embrace a life whole~ heartedly given over to Him.*

*Vs 1 & 2 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy,*

*to offer yourselves fully as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God -*

*this is your spiritual act of worship.*

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,*

*but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

*Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -*

*his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**St Anselm’s Prayer**

**Lord our God, Grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;**

**That so desiring we may seek and find you;**

**And so finding, may love you,**

**And so loving, may hate those things of darkness**

**from which you have delivered us**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*We pray:*

**Lord our God, In our selfishness and sin we have avoided your call.**

**Our love for you and others is like a morning cloud,**

**Like the dew that evaporates early.**

**Forgive us and keep us from harming others and ourselves.**

**Bind up our wounds and revive us; In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**PSALM 1**

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.  
They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season,  
    and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Collect for Trinity 14**

Almighty God

Your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross:

May we trust in Your mercy and know Your love,

Rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *(Additional Collect, Common Worship)*

**READING:** *from*Genesis Chapter 50 verses 21~35

**HYMN:** Forgive our sins, as we forgive[**https://youtu.be/HixCQUirJxg**](https://youtu.be/HixCQUirJxg)(Words over) **GOSPEL READING:** *from* Matthew Chapter 18 verses 15~20

**Food for Thought** *(See Overleaf)*

**PRAYERS**

Jesus offers us forgiveness and freedom as we determine to walk His way.

For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others,

and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

**Lord, forgive us.**

For the self~righteousness that denies guilt,

And the self~interest which strangles compassion,

**Lord, forgive us.**

For those who live their lives in careless unconcern,

Who cry “Peace, peace” when there is no peace.

**We ask your mercy, Lord.**

For our failings in our life within community, our lack of understanding, Jesus.

**We ask your mercy, Lord.**

For our lack of forgiveness, openness and sensitivity, L**ord, forgive us.**

For the times that we were too eager to be better than others,

When we are too rushed to care, When we are too tired to bother,

When we don’t really listen, or too quick to act from motives other than Love,

**Lord, forgive us.**  *(from “Bread of Tomorrow”)*

. Lord, help us to rise to the challenge of Your call to act as Salt, preserving good, and Light to combat darkness in our world,

that we may draw others under the umbrella of Your love.

We pray for the Church, here and across the world *(add your own prayer ……………)*

We pray for our own communities nation and our world, especially where hatred or

injustice has caused hurt, division or injustice *(add your own specific prayer …)*

Teach us to be faithful to You and Your Love as we live and serve you each day.

We pray for those in special need: the sick, the dying, those in the grip of darkness.

May we always be ready to listen, to forgive, and ready to help or heal. Amen.

**HYMN:**  In Christ alone, my hope is found **https://youtu.be/FTKtgZRHmqY**