



**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Epiphany Parish**  
**September 17, 2023**  
**10:00 am - Rite II**



*"...how often should  
I forgive?  
"Not SEVEN times,  
but, I tell you,  
SEVENTY-  
SEVEN  
times."*

*Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV*

*We gather with joy in the power of Jesus' name, to care for one another and to include all people through our fellowship, education & outreach.*

**The service begins on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer**

## **The Prelude**

## **The Opening Hymn**

**H#410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven**

## **The Word of God**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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*People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

## **The Collect for Purity**

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## **The Gloria**

*found in the front portion of the 1982 Hymnal - Hymnal S-280*

**The Collect (in unison)** O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **The First Reading**

**Genesis 50:15-21**

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.

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Psalms 103:(1-7), 8-13**

***Benedic, anima mea***

*We will read responsively, breaking at the half-verse.*

<sup>1</sup> [Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*

and forget not all his benefits.

<sup>3</sup> He forgives all your sins \*

and heals all your infirmities;

<sup>4</sup> He redeems your life from the grave \*

and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

<sup>5</sup> He satisfies you with good things, \*

and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD executes righteousness \*

and judgment for all who are oppressed.

<sup>7</sup> He made his ways known to Moses \*

and his works to the children of Israel.]

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*

slow to anger and of great kindness.

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse us, \*

nor will he keep his anger for ever.

<sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*

nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*

so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, \*

so far has he removed our sins from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father cares for his children, \*

so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

## The Epistle Reading

**Romans 14:1-12**

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

## The Gradual Hymn

H#596 Judge eternal throned in splendor

## The Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People *Glory to you Lord Christ.*

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church 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, his 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 tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## The Sermon

The Reverend Christen H. Mills

## The Nicene Creed

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## The Prayers of the People (Form VI)

p 392

## The Confession of Sin

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## The Peace

## The Offertory Hymn

H#1 Father, we praise thee, now the night is over

## The Offering and Doxology *(sung)*

Hymnal 380 (verse 3)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures, here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen



**Eucharistic Prayer B**

p 367

**Sanctus**

*found in the front portion of the 1982 Hymnal - Hymnal S-125*

**The Lord's Prayer**

p 364

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**Communion Hymn**

**H#516 Come down, O Love divine**

**The Post Communion Prayer**

p 365

**The Blessing**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**The Closing Hymn**

**H#347 Go forth for God; go to the world in peace**

**The Dismissal**

**The Postlude**

### **Invitation for Spiritual Communion**

*This prayer is a personal prayer that you can say when you desire communion but are unable to receive the sacrament..* Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you. Amen

*Our Worship is over ~ Our Ministry begins*

You are welcome to join us for coffee and snacks immediately following the service.

**All are welcome!**