

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15–21

[15](#) 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.

THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

[21](#)Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he 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 the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents 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](#)"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, canceled 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 denarii. 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 you 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 greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

[32](#)"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled 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 turned 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 from your heart."