


**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023**



**“FORGIVENESS IS
THE RESTORATION
OF FREEDOM TO
ONESELF; IT IS THE
KEY HELD IN OUR
OWN HAND TO OUR
PRISON CELL.”**

-St. John Paul the Great

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

*Children are always welcome in the church.
Please be sure your cell phone is inaudible.*

Prelude

Opening Hymn #411 O Bless the Lord, My Soul

St. Thomas

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer, page 355

Gloria in Excelsis (*insert in Hymnal*) *Powell*

Hymnal S280

The Collect

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.

Psalm 103:1-13

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.

The Second 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.

Sequence Hymn #516 Come Down, O Love Divine

Down Ampney

The Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

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."

Sermon

The Rev. Canon Lisa Fry

Nicene Creed

Page 358

Prayers of the People – Form III

Leader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Leader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Leader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader: Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Leader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession and Absolution page 360

The Peace page 360

Announcements

Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase. Bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand, comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful, raise them up if they fall. And in their heart, may thy peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory

Offertory Hymn 380 (v.3) *Old 100th*

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer C page 369

Sanctus *(insert in Hymnal)* *Powell* Hymnal S129

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread

The Communion

Communion Voluntary

Postcommunion Prayer

page 365

Blessing

Dismissal Hymn #410 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven *Lauda anima*

The Dismissal

Postlude



*The flowers this morning are given by Phil and Sarah Groman
In Memory of Judith Newell Price, David Jones, and Maxxie Groman.*



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*Restrooms are located down the right aisle, past the Chapel, at the end of the corridor on the left side.
Additional restrooms are located in the basement (down the same corridor, via the stairway on the left).*

Liturgical Ministers

Celebrant & Preacher:

The Rev. Canon Lisa Fry

Organist:

Clarissa Brown, Minister of Music

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Dean Jackson

Acolytes: BC Lowry, Lucy Lowry

Lay Readers: Benjy Lowry, Sue Foltz

Prayers of the People: Jan Lyle

Usher: Phil Groman, Edmund Hartt

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