

Old Testament Reading:
Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Epistle: Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of

the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21–35

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."



Pentecost

About the Cover: Forgiveness cannot be quantified. The unforgiving servant in Jesus' parable shows that disregarding his own forgiveness results in withholding it from fellow servants. But forgiveness is to be given just as it has been received. Our debt of sin could not be overcome by us. But Christ paid what we could not by His death on the cross. Therefore, the abundance of His forgiveness leads us to forgive one another abundantly.

Forgive



Matthew 18:21

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH
1306 VERMONT AVE NW
WASHINGTON, DC. 20005
CHURCH PICNIC - September 13, 2026

Invocation

Season of Pentecost Versicle

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.

For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. I will give you rest.

Confession & Forgiveness – Order D

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Almighty God, merciful Father:

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You and for which I justly deserve Your punishment.

But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for Your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me Your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Old Testament & the Epistle
The Gospel

Collect of the Day

Grant, merciful Lord, to Your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sermonette

Offerings to the Lord

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Announcements:

Church Council at 7pm on September 16 (by phone)

Sunday morning Bible study restarts on September 20th.

Sunday September 20 we will have a Voters' meeting after the service.

SERMON NOTES

Sermon Title _____

Texts _____

Main Ideas / Thoughts _____

I Want to Remember _____

What Response Does God Want? _____