



# PLEASE FORGIVE

— GENESIS 50:15-21 —

**Sunday, September 17, 2023, 9:00am**

***Forgiveness***

**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

*Yesterday on the Church calendar (September 16th), the Bishop Cyprian of Carthage is remembered.  
As a Church leader in the 3rd century, a time of Roman persecution, Cyprian had to deal with the problem of Christians who denied the faith under persecution but later wanted to be restored to the fellowship of the Lord.  
Cyprian helped craft a response to the situation that was based on forgiveness, allowing a lapsed Christian to be reinstated after a time in which they lived out their restored faithful confession.  
His own faithfulness unto death was fully demonstrated as he was executed by Roman authorities for his Christian beliefs in AD 258.  
Speaking words of forgiveness and living them out can come with a price, but is Christlike in every way!*

## ***Prelude***

### ***#912, Christ Is Our Cornerstone***

- 1 Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build; With His true saints alone  
The courts of heav'n are filled. On His great love Our hopes we place  
Of present grace And joys above.
- 2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore, And may that grace, once  
giv'n, Be with us evermore Until that day When all the blest To endless rest  
Are called away.
- 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring; Our voices we will raise  
The Three in One to sing And thus proclaim In joyful song, Both loud and long,  
That glorious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.

Text: Public domain

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness....Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!

**C: I have fled to you for | refuge!**

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

**C: In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**

P: Enter not into judgment with Your servant,

**C: for no one living is righteous before You.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen.**

P: Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!

**C: I have fled to You for refuge!**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Together, we pray,

**C: O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all Godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.**

## **Children's Time**

### **Genesis 50:15–21 [Sermon Text]**

When 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." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, '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. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As 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. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Romans 14:1–12**

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let 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. Who 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. One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should

be fully convinced in his own mind. The 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. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 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, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why 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; 11 for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Peter came up and said to Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And 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. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But 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.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When 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. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### ***#611, Chief of Sinners Though I Be***

1 Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
Lives that I might never die. As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above, Deeper than the depths of sea,  
Lasting as eternity! Love that found me—wondrous thought!  
Found me when I sought Him not.

3 Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart, Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to walk with God  
In the way that Enoch trod.

4 Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
All my sorrows are His own. He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

5 O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word! When my wayward heart would stray,  
Keep me in the narrow way; Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.

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**The Sermon**                      *Please Forgive*

**The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes**

**The Prayers of His Children**

P: Lord, in Your mercy    **C: hear our prayer**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.**

**The Words of our Lord**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

**O** Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

**O** Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.  
**Amen.**

## **The Distribution of Holy Communion**

### **Choir Invitation to Communion**

#### **#777, *Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord***

1 Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord; Peace in our time, O send us! For there is none on earth but You, None other to defend us. You only, Lord, can fight for us.  
**Amen.**

Text: Latin, c. 6th cent.; adapt. Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Laudamus, 1952, Hannover

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#### **#637, *Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord***

1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord, And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields, To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole, Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere, And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Text: Public domain

#### **#617, *O Lord, We Praise Thee***

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee, In thanksgiving bow before Thee.  
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish Our weak souls that they may flourish:  
O Lord, have mercy! May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

2 Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven. No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;  
May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy!  
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.  
All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior And live together here in love and union  
Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!  
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us; Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;  
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546

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P: Together, let us pray.

**C:** We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith

**toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.**

## **God's Benediction**

### ***#924, Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing***

- 1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace; Let us each, Your love  
possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us; O refresh us,  
Trav'ling through this wilderness.
- 2 Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound. May the fruits of Your salvation  
In our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.
- 3 Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way, Let not fear of death appall  
us, Glad Your summons to obey. May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.

Text (sts. 1–2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

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## **Ministry Announcements**

### ***Postlude***