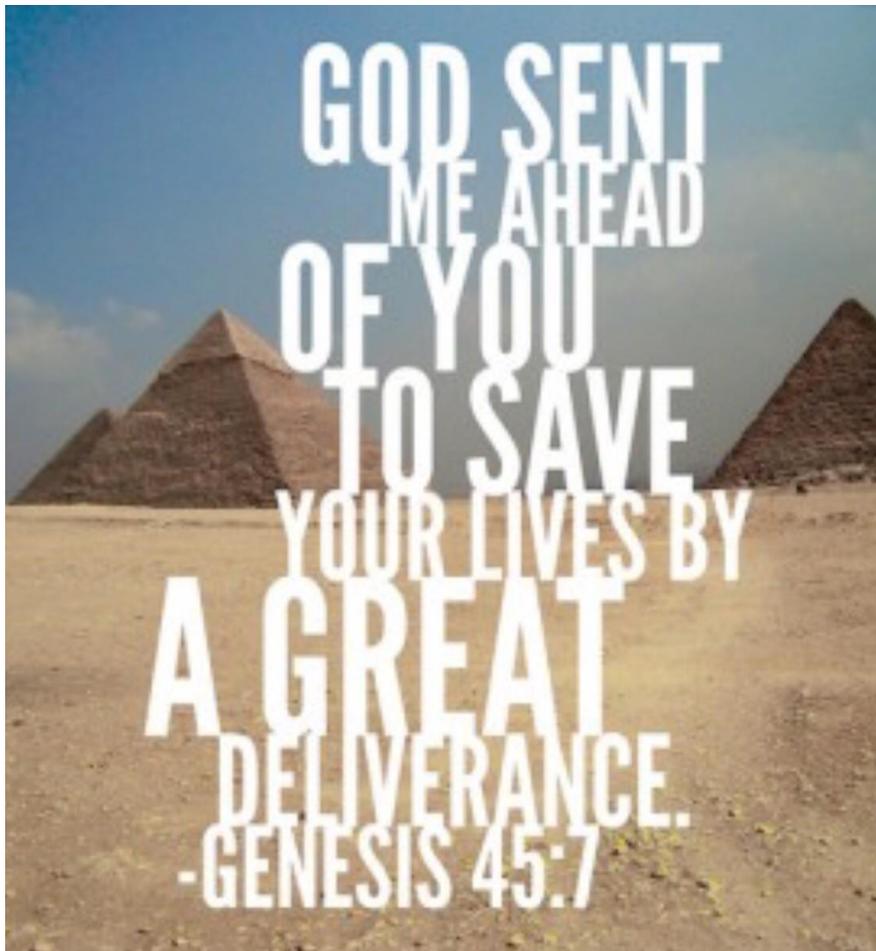


*This Sunday at St. Luke's Blue Ridge  
September 13, 2020*

**One service 9:30 a.m., MANY WORSHIP OPTIONS:  
in-church, in-Yellow Room, in-pavilion, drive-in and online**

## **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**



In today's episode in the Joseph saga, he reveals himself to his brothers and extends forgiveness rather than taking revenge.

Our focus this Sunday:  
*The Christian Grace of Forgiveness*

## OVERVIEW – GENESIS 45

There are many Christian graces, but forgiveness may well top them all. After all Jesus Himself modelled this grace on the cross when He cried out, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

St. Paul, likewise, enjoined the grace of forgiveness on Jesus’s followers, saying: “Recompense to no man evil for evil” (Romans 12:17) or as J.B. Phillips renders the phrase, “Don’t pay back a bad turn with a bad turn.” St. Paul then goes on to say: “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Joseph is an Old Testament prototype of one who practices forgiveness. From a human standpoint, he had every reason to seek revenge against his brothers who first plotted to kill him and then settled on selling him into slavery. Instead, he chose to extend forgiveness. More than that, the words he spoke to his brothers that day reveal a very mature understanding of the ways of God. “It was not you that sent me hither, but God,” he told them. He was not saying what they did was right, but rather that God had overridden their evil for good, indeed for their own preservation and that of their families.

Choosing forgiveness over revenge in inter-personal relationships is one way that followers of Jesus today witness to the world that they are part of God’s new order. The world does it one way: we do it quite another. (VHM)

### *The Collect for Trinity 14*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE EPISTLE – Galatians 5:16-24 (J.B. Phillips)

*The way to live in freedom is by the Spirit*

<sup>16-18</sup> Here is my advice. Live your whole life in the Spirit and you will not satisfy the desires of your lower nature. For the whole energy of the lower nature is set against the Spirit, while the whole power of the Spirit is contrary to the lower nature. Here is the conflict, and that is why you are not free to do what you want to do. But if you follow the leading of the Spirit, you stand clear of the Law.

<sup>19-21</sup> The activities of the lower nature are obvious. Here is a list: sexual immorality, impurity of mind, sensuality, worship of false gods, witchcraft, hatred, quarrelling, jealousy, bad temper, rivalry, factions, party-spirit, envy, drunkenness, orgies and

things like that. I solemnly assure you, as I did before, that those who indulge in such things will never inherit God's kingdom.

<sup>22-25</sup> The Spirit however, produces in human life fruits such as these: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, fidelity, tolerance and self-control—and no law exists against any of them. Those who belong to Christ have crucified their old nature with all that it loved and lusted for. If our lives are centred in the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit.

NOTE: The fruit of the Spirit is described in acts which unite man and man; the works of the flesh have an opposite effect. Here is a practical description of the nature of brotherly love (Ephesians 4:2-3). (William Sydnor)

### **THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. Luke 17:11-19 (J.B. Phillips)**

*Jesus heals ten men of leprosy: only one shows his gratitude*

<sup>11-13</sup> In the course of his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus crossed the boundary between Samaria and Galilee, and as he was approaching a village, ten lepers met him. They kept their distance but shouted out, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

<sup>14-18</sup> When Jesus saw them, he said, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And it happened that as they went on their way they were cured. One of their number, when he saw that he was cured, turned round and praised God at the top of his voice, and then fell on his face before Jesus and thanked him. This man was a Samaritan. And at this Jesus remarked, “Weren't there ten men healed? Where are the other nine? Is nobody going to turn and praise God for what he has done, except this stranger?”

<sup>19</sup> And he said to the man, “Stand up now, and go on your way. It is your faith that has made you well.”

NOTE: The account of the healing of the ten lepers is one more example of our Lord's great concern for people. In the Fourth Gospel he commands those who would belong to him to “love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12). In all the Gospel records we find him reaching out to those whom others failed to care about and love –lepers, the demon-possessed, tax collectors, women of the streets, foreigners. The prayer from the cross and the concern for the thief were of a piece with his whole life. This our Master, and this is our commission. (William Sydnor).

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON (Lectionary) – Genesis 45:1-15, 25-28 (ESV)**

*Joseph Provides for His Brothers and Family*

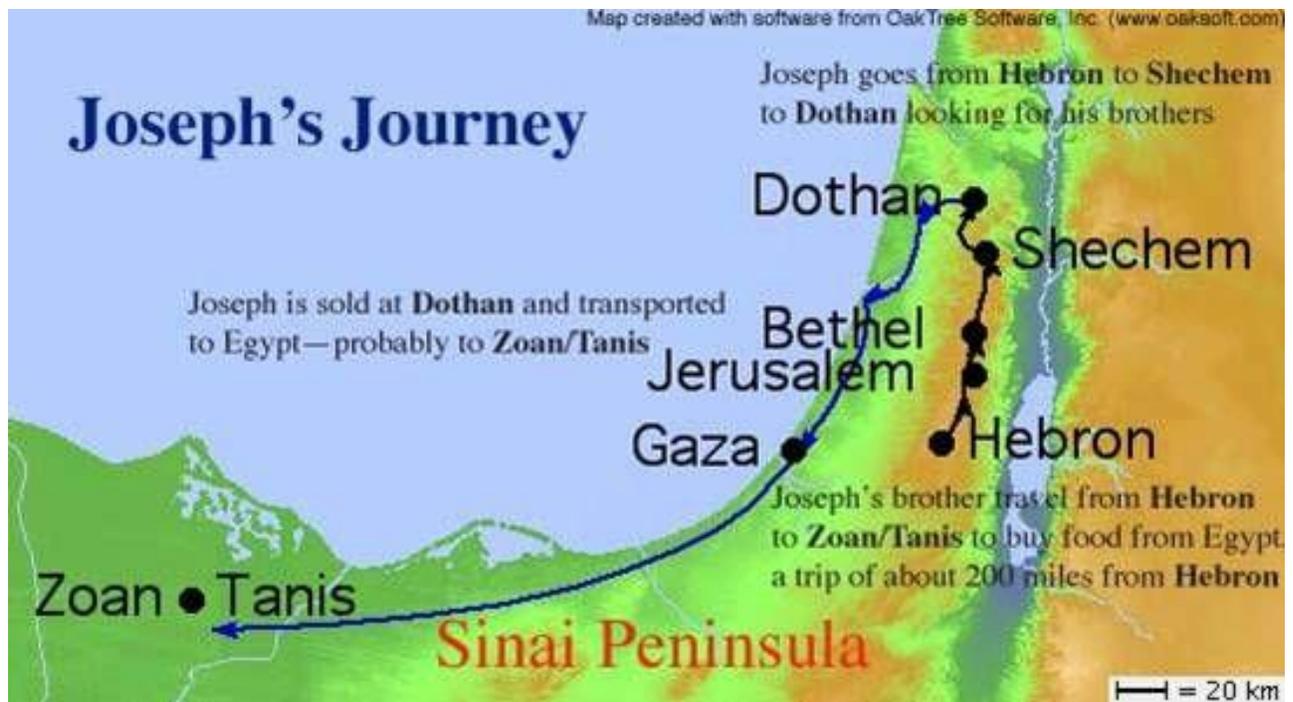
**45** Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, “Make everyone go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians

heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup> You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’ <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father of all my honour in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

<sup>25</sup> So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. <sup>26</sup> And they told him, “Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt.” And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them. <sup>27</sup> But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. <sup>28</sup> And Israel said, “It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.”

NOTE: Joseph makes himself known to his brothers in the climactic episode of the Joseph saga. Here is brotherly concern where we might have expected revenge. (William Sydnor)



## **The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

9:30 a.m.

This Sunday's Focus

*The Christian Grace of Forgiveness*

**The Rev. Ronald O. Wikander will be  
this Sunday's preacher.**

### **Worship Options**

1. In-church. This week's service will be conducted in the Church Proper. Social

distancing will be observed. Additional seating is provided in the Yellow Room.

2. Drive-in. Those choosing this option are asked to remain in their automobile and listen to the service via their car radio (FM 98.1). Holy Communion will be delivered to cars in plastic bags.
3. In-pavilion. As the weather becomes warmer, a speaker has been set up in the church pavilion. Those choosing this option should space themselves out. Dogs are welcomed if kept quiet and under control.
4. Online. Services will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook and available for viewing following the service on YouTube. To access both put “Parish Church

of St. Luke, Blue Ridge, Ga.” in the search bar.

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### **VIDEOGRAPHERS NEEDED**

Videographers are needed to run cameras during our morning service. If you would like to help bring the Gospel to the masses, please contact Jim Noblett at (706) 832-3195 or the Rector at (706) 633-7734 (mobile).

### **MEN’S BARN SALE**

St. Luke’s Men’s Group annual barn sale will be held Friday, Sept. 11, and Saturday, Sept. 12, in conjunction with the Women of St. Luke’s garage sale. Sale items needed. Please look around your house for ‘manly’ stuff. For information, speak to Roger Johnson or Neal McDonnell.

*From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine; from battle and murder, and from sudden death. GOOD LORD, DELIVER US*

### **OUR MISSION**

*St. Luke’s mission is to grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to share our faith, our hands and hearts for the sake of the Gospel, our community and the world.*

## Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2020

*As stewards of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount to the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for 2020*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)

*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him to store, as God has prospered him. 1  
Corinthians 16:2*

# REMEMBER THE NEEDY

## EVERY TIME YOU COME TO CHURCH



*Please bring one or more item for the needy -- paper, soap products, tinned and dried food, etc. Leave in Narthex. Items will be distributed through North Georgia Community Action Agency*



### NEW SIGN-UP SHEET FOR 2020 IS AVAILABLE

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2020. Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

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