

## ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 20, 2017



### THE LESSON Genesis 45:1-15

<sup>1</sup>Joseph could no longer control himself in front of all his attendants, so he declared, “Everyone, leave now!” So no one stayed with him when he revealed his identity to his brothers. <sup>2</sup>He wept so loudly that the Egyptians and Pharaoh’s household heard him. <sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, “I’m Joseph! Is my father really still alive?” His brothers couldn’t respond because they were terrified before him.

<sup>4</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me,” and they moved closer. He said, “I’m your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. <sup>5</sup>Now, don’t be upset and don’t be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. <sup>6</sup>We’ve already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to make sure you’d survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. <sup>8</sup>You didn’t send me here; it was God who

made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup>“Hurry! Go back to your father. Tell him this is what your son Joseph says: ‘God has made me master of all of Egypt. Come down to me. Don’t delay. <sup>10</sup>You may live in the land of Goshen, so you will be near me, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and everyone with you. <sup>11</sup>I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won’t starve, since the famine will still last five years.’ <sup>12</sup>You and my brother Benjamin have seen with your own eyes that I’m speaking to you. <sup>13</sup>Tell my father about my power in Egypt and about everything you’ve seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup>He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder. <sup>15</sup>He kissed all of his brothers and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

### THE RESPONSE Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup> Look at how good and pleasing it is when families live together as one!

<sup>2</sup>It is like expensive oil poured over the head, running down onto the beard—Aaron’s beard!—which extended over the collar of his robes.

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew on Mount Hermon streaming down onto the mountains of Zion,

because it is there that the LORD has commanded the blessing: everlasting life.

### THE EPISTLE Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

<sup>1</sup>So I ask you, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! I’m an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup>God hasn’t rejected his people, whom he knew in advance. Or don’t you know what the scripture says in the case of Elijah, when he pleads with God against Israel? . . .

### THE GOSPEL Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

<sup>10</sup>Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, “Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup>It’s not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God’s sight. It’s what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person.”

<sup>12</sup>Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?”

<sup>13</sup>Jesus replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be pulled up. <sup>14</sup>Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch.”

<sup>15</sup>Then Peter spoke up, “Explain this riddle to us.”

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said, “Don’t you understand yet? <sup>17</sup>Don’t you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that’s what contaminates a person in God’s sight. <sup>19</sup>Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery,

<sup>20</sup>God’s gifts and calling can’t be taken back. <sup>30</sup>Once you were disobedient to God, but now you have mercy because they were disobedient. <sup>31</sup>In the same way, they have also been disobedient because of the mercy that you received, so now they can receive mercy too. <sup>32</sup>God has locked up all people in disobedience, in order to have mercy on all of them.

sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and insults. <sup>20</sup>These contaminate a person in God’s sight. But eating without washing hands doesn’t contaminate in God’s sight.” . . .

<sup>21</sup>From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, “Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession.” <sup>23</sup>But he didn’t respond to her at all.

His disciples came and urged him, “Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us.”

<sup>24</sup>Jesus replied, “I’ve been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel.”

<sup>25</sup>But she knelt before him and said, “Lord, help me.”

<sup>26</sup>He replied, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and toss it to dogs.”

<sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters’ table.”

<sup>28</sup>Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish.” And right then her daughter was healed.

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