

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



February 24, 2019

THE LESSON

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" His brothers couldn't respond because they were terrified before him.

⁴Joseph 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. ⁵Now, 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. ⁶We've already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. ⁷God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive and to rescue

your lives in this amazing way. ⁸You 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.

⁹"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. ¹⁰You 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. ¹¹I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won't starve, since the famine will still last five years.' . . .

¹⁵ He kissed all of his brothers and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

¹Don't get upset over evildoers; don't be jealous of those who do wrong,

²**because they will fade fast, like grass; they will wither like green vegetables.**

³Trust the LORD and do good; live in the land, and farm faithfully.

⁴**Enjoy the LORD, and he will give what your heart asks.**

⁵Commit your way to the LORD! Trust him! He will act

⁶and will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like high noon.

⁷**Be still before the LORD, and wait for him. Don't get upset when someone gets ahead—someone who invents evil schemes.**

⁸Let go of anger and leave rage behind! Don't get upset—it will only lead to evil.

Scripture quotations are from the Common English Bible. Copyright © 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Word Alive! Lectionary Service Abingdon Press Litho in U.S.A. 2194

⁹Because evildoers will be eliminated, but those who hope in the LORD—they will possess the land.

¹⁰In just a little while the wicked won't exist! If you go looking around their place, they won't be there.

¹¹But the weak will inherit the land; they will enjoy a surplus of peace. . . .

¹²The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; he is their refuge in times of trouble.

¹³The LORD will help them and rescue them—rescue them from the wicked—and he will save them because they have taken refuge in him.

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? What kind of body will they have when they come back?"

³⁶Look, fool! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't come back to life unless it dies. ³⁷What you put in the ground doesn't have the shape that it will have, but it's a bare grain of wheat or some other seed. ³⁸God gives it the sort of shape that he chooses, and he gives each of the seeds its own shape. . . .

³⁹It's the same with the resurrection of the dead: a rotting body is put into the ground, but what is raised won't ever decay. ⁴⁰It's degraded when it's put into the ground, but it's raised in glory. It's weak when it's put into the ground, but it's raised in power. ⁴¹It's a physical body when it's put into the ground, but it's

raised as a spiritual body.

If there's a physical body, there's also a spiritual body. ⁴²So it is also written, *The first human, Adam, became a living person*, and the last Adam became a spirit that gives life.

⁴³But the physical body comes first, not the spiritual one—the spiritual body comes afterward. ⁴⁴The first human was from the earth made from dust; the second human is from heaven. ⁴⁵The nature of the person made of dust is shared by people who are made of dust, and the nature of the heavenly person is shared by heavenly people. ⁴⁶We will look like the heavenly person in the same way as we have looked like the person made from dust.

⁴⁷This is what I'm saying, brothers and sisters: Flesh and blood can't inherit God's kingdom. Something that rots can't inherit something that doesn't decay.

THE GOSPEL Luke 6:27-38

²⁷But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer

the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don't withhold your shirt either. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks and don't demand your things back from those who take them. ³¹Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

³²If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. ³⁵Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of

the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. ³⁶Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

³⁷Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return."