

## 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### AUGUST 20, 2023

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#### THE FIRST READING IS FROM GENESIS 45:1-15

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 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. 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 delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the LORD. ***Thanks be to God.***

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**PSALM # 133**, *please join in saying the Psalm in unison*      - *The Saint Helena Psalter*

**1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \***  
    **when kindred live together in unity!**

**2 It is like fine oil upon the head \***  
    **that runs down upon the beard,**

**3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \***  
    **and runs down upon the collar of his robe.**

**4 It is like the dew of Hermon \***  
    **that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

**5 For there has God ordained the blessing: \***  
    **life for evermore.**

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**THE SECOND READING IS FROM ROMANS 11:1-2a, 29-32**

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the LORD. ***Thanks be to God.***

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### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Sean the Bishop of our Diocesan Partnership, for our Episcopal Partnership churches of St John's, Franklinville, St. Patrick's, Cheektowaga, St. John the Baptist, Dunkirk, The Church of England and the Diocese of Yokohama, for Denis, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

We pray for Guy Costa, Sr.; Mark Fiore, George Alincic, Tim Pickett, Allison Murphy, Helen and Patty Walther; Neal; Holly; Jane; Greg; Carol Boling, John Villella, Pete Nagle; Joyce Crate; Mary Holton;

for the people of Ukraine; and those others we now name ....

have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for Luke and Willow, for strength, confidence, endurance and safety as they race in their Iron Man today.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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