

Today's Readings
17th September
2023

15th Sunday after
Trinity

THE COLLECT

Lord God,
defend your Church from all
false teaching and give to
your people knowledge of
your truth, that we may enjoy
eternal life in Jesus Christ
our Lord.

FIRST READING

Genesis 50.15-21

Realizing that their father was
dead, Joseph's brothers said,
'What if Joseph still bears a
grudge against us and pays
us back in full for all the
wrong that we did to
him?' ¹⁶ So they
approached Joseph, saying,
'Your father gave this
instruction before he
died, ¹⁷ "Say to Joseph: I beg
you, forgive the crime of your
brothers and the wrong they
did in harming you." Now
therefore please forgive the
crime of the servants of the
God of your father.' Joseph
wept when they spoke to
him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also
wept, fell down before him,
and said, 'We are here as

your slaves.' ¹⁹ But Joseph
said to them, 'Do not be
afraid! Am I in the place of
God? ²⁰ Even though you
intended to do harm to me,
God intended it for good, in
order to preserve a numerous
people, as he is doing
today. ²¹ So have no fear; I
myself will provide for you
and your little ones.' In this
way he reassured them,
speaking kindly to them.

SECOND READING

Romans 14.1-12

Welcome those who are weak
in faith, but not for the
purpose of quarrelling over
opinions. ² Some believe in
eating anything, while the
weak eat only vegetables
³ Those who eat must not
despise those who abstain,
and those who abstain must
not pass judgement on those
who eat; for God has
welcomed them. ⁴ Who are
you to pass judgement on
servants of another? It is
before their own lord that they
stand or fall. And they will be
upheld, for the Lord is able to
make them stand. ⁵ Some
judge one day to be better
than another, while others
judge all days to be alike. Let

all be fully convinced in their
own minds. ⁶ Those who
observe the day, observe it in
honour of the Lord. Also
those who eat, eat in honour
of the Lord, since they give
thanks to God; while those
who abstain, abstain in
honour of the Lord and give
thanks to God. ⁷ We do not
live to ourselves, and we do
not die to ourselves. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For to this end Christ
died and lived again, so that
he might be Lord of both the
dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why
do you pass judgement on
your brother or sister? Or
you, why do you despise your
brother or sister? For we will
all stand before the
judgement seat of God. ¹¹ For
it is written, 'As I live, says the
Lord, every knee shall bow to
me, and every tongue shall
give praise to God.'
¹² So then, each of us will be
accountable to God.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18.21-35

Then Peter came and said to
him, 'Lord, if another member

of the church sins against me,
how often should I forgive?
As many as seven
times?' ²² Jesus said to him,
'Not seven times, but, I tell
you, seventy-seven times.
²³ 'For this reason the
kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a king who
wished to settle accounts with
his slaves. ²⁴ When he began
the reckoning, one who owed
him ten thousand talents was
brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he
could not pay, his lord
ordered him to be sold,
together with his wife and
children and all his
possessions, and payment to
be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell
on his knees before him,
saying, "Have patience with
me, and I will pay you
everything." ²⁷ And out of pity
for him, the lord of that slave
released him and forgave him
the debt. ²⁸ But that same
slave, as he went out, came
upon one of his fellow-slaves
who owed him a hundred
denarii; and seizing him by
the throat, he said, "Pay what
you owe." ²⁹ Then his fellow-
slave fell down and pleaded
with him, "Have patience with
me, and I will pay you." ³⁰ But
he refused; then he went and
threw him into prison until he

should pay the debt. ³¹ When
his fellow-slaves saw what
had happened, they were
greatly distressed, and they
went and reported to their lord
all that had taken place. ³²
Then his lord summoned him
and said to him, "You wicked
slave! I forgave you all that
debt because you pleaded
with me. ³³ Should you not
have had mercy on your
fellow-slave, as I had mercy
on you?" ³⁴ And in anger his
lord handed him over to be
tortured until he should pay
his entire debt. ³⁵ So my
heavenly Father will also do
to every one of you, if you do
not forgive your brother or
sister from your heart.'

POST COMMUNION
PRAYER

Keep, O Lord, your Church,
with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you
our human frailty cannot
but fall,
keep us ever by your help
from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things
profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our
Lord.