SEPTMBER 17, 2017
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

We are to forgive countless times.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday       Matthew 18:21-35       A parable about forgiveness
Monday       Genesis 18:20-33       Abraham pleads for Sodom
Tuesday      Genesis 50:15-21       Joseph forgives his brothers
Wednesday    Romans 14:1-12         Don’t judge others
Thursday     1 Samuel 26:5-25       David spares Saul’s life
Friday       Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-60    Stephen prays for his killers
Saturday     Psalm 103              The Lord’s wonderful love
Sunday       Matthew 20:1-16        Parable of the vineyard workers

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Peter came up to the Lord and asked, “How many times should I forgive someone who does wrong to me? Is seven times enough?” Jesus answered: “Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!”
Matthew 18:21-22 (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Dear God, we thank you for your never-failing love and forgiveness. Help us to show our gratitude with mercy to others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
We thank you for providing for our needs and giving us the strength of a young eagle. Amen. (Psalm 103:5)

A Blessing to Give:
May the Lord who crowns you with steadfast love forgive you all your sins and give you a merciful heart. (Psalm 104:4)

SEPTEMBER 17, 2017
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Forgive Our Sins
As We Forgive

CARING CONVERSATIONS
Discuss in your home or small group:

- Have you ever been hurt by someone again and again? What did you do?
- What makes it difficult to forgive someone repeatedly?
- How is the kingdom of heaven shown in the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:23-35)?

DEVOTIONS
Read: Matthew 18:21-35.

Act out the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant or read it together with others speaking as the different characters in the parable. Then, talk about each character. What are they like? Which of the characters are you most like?

Take turns praying for each other, that God may help you to be kind and forgiving towards others.

SERVICE
Think about someone you have not been willing to forgive. Consider ways to free both you and that other person by forgiving them in your heart (including a prayer) and by finding some way to communicate a more gracious relationship with them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS
Psalm 103 is one of the great psalms expressing God’s love and our response through praise. During this next week, read the psalm daily and pause to reflect on a word or thought that can bless you throughout the day.

PLEASE PRAY God’s Healing For... Jackie Anderson, daughter-in-law of Jim & Marcy Anderson; Ron Beck, Scott Dubbe, Sue Brown, Allen Brown’s sister; Joan Hiltz, Susan Kahler’s mother, Elaine Bokker, Morgan TenEyck, friend of Sydney & Mikaela Stofferahn, Pastor Earl Johnson, Cole Hoenisch, son of Katie/Tyler Hoenisch and grandson of Kathy/Jon Peterson, Dan Larimer, Char McManus’ brother, Becky Randall, Peg Nelson, Jim Weelborg (Christie Hainje’s brother), Grant Nielsen (Jim & Karen Nielsen’s grandson), Bonnie Henry, Emmett Zorr (Barb & Tom Zorr’s great nephew), Norm Shed (Deb Henriksen’s father), Kayson Schaeffer (friend of Char McManus)
Remember to pray for...Mtwivila Parish, Iringa, Tanzania, our companion Congregation, The Two Strike community & Jordan and Chad Munk, serving on our behalf

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