

Scripture Readings for September 16/17

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing 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?" ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even 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. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Psalm: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

- [¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- ²**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—**
- ³who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
- ⁴**who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R**
- ⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- ⁶**O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**
- ⁷You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
-] ⁸**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R**
- ⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
- ¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
- ¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**
- ¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. **R**