

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us



Background: What is the greatest example of forgiveness you have ever heard? Probably was Christ, who was sinless, yet when he was crucified, He asked for the forgiveness of all those who caused His crucifixion! That would include **you and me!** Therefore it is with great humility that we pray the 6th petition of the Lord's Prayer—***"Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us"***

The Lessons: Genesis 50:15–21, Romans 14:1–12, & Matthew 18:21–35

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does

Jacob seeks the Forgiveness of His Brother Jan Victoors 1652 not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have *"mercy on your fellow servant"* and *"forgive your brother from your heart"* (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord's forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we *"are the Lord's"* (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will *"stand before the judgment seat of God,"* we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also *"will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand"* (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends *"to bring it about that many people should be kept alive"* (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: *"I will provide for you and your little ones"* (Gen. 50:21).