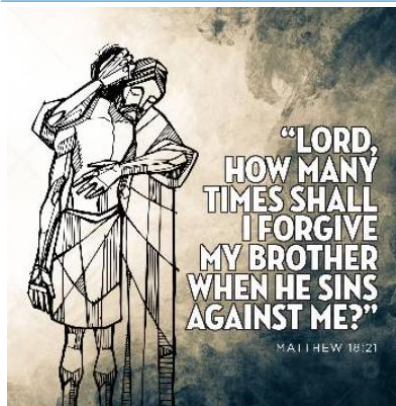


13th September 2026



God of mercy,

*soften the places in us that have become hard
through hurt.*

*Teach us to forgive, not because the pain was
insignificant, but because your grace is
greater than our pain. Free us from
resentment, restore our relationships, and
make our hearts spacious enough for your
peace. Amen.*

Weekly Pastoral Reflection

In today's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus, "How often should I forgive?" Jesus' answer, "seventy-seven times," is not about keeping a scorecard. It is about becoming people whose lives are shaped by God's extravagant mercy. The servant in the parable receives enormous forgiveness, yet refuses to extend that same mercy to another. Jesus challenges us to notice the contradiction in our own hearts. We all carry hurts, disappointments and memories that are difficult to release. Forgiveness does not mean saying that the hurt did not matter. It means refusing to let the hurt have the final word. This week, Jesus invites us to receive God's mercy more deeply and allow that mercy to flow through us.

Sentence & Prayer of the Day

Sentence: If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Psalm 130.3–4

Prayer of the Day: O God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

First Reading from Exodus 14.19-31

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.

²⁴At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.' ²⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Biblical background: Israel stands trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea. God opens a way where there appears to be no way, leading Israel from slavery into freedom.

Meaning & relevance today: God can make a path through situations that seem impossible. Faith does not mean there is no fear, but trusting God enough to take the next step.

Reflection question: *Where in my life do I need to trust God and take the next step, even when I cannot yet see the way forward?*

Psalm 114

¹ When Israel came out of Egypt:
and the house of Jacob from among a people of an alien tongue,

² **Judah became his sanctuary:
and Israel his dominion.**

³ The sea saw that, and fled:
Jordan was driven back.

⁴ **The mountains skipped like rams:
and the little hills like young sheep.**

⁵ What ailed you, O sea, that you fled:
O Jordan, that you were driven back?

⁶ **You mountains, that you skipped like rams:
and you little hills like young sheep?**

⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord:
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

⁸ **Who turned the rock into a pool of water:
and the flint-stone into a welling spring.**

Second Reading from Romans 14.1.14

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.

³Those 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. ⁴Who 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. ⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God. ¹³Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another. ¹⁴I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. Hear the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Biblical background: Paul addresses disagreements among Christians about food, religious practices and special days. He calls the Church to stop judging one another over matters where sincere believers may differ.

Meaning & relevance today: Christian community is bigger than our preferences. We are called to make room for one another, remembering that Christ is Lord of every person.

Reflection question: *Where might I need to replace judgement with understanding and make more room for someone who sees things differently from me?*

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 18.21-35

GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

²¹Then 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?' ²²Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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." ²⁹Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt.

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

For the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

Biblical background: Peter asks Jesus how many times he must forgive. Jesus responds with the parable of the unforgiving servant, contrasting God's enormous mercy with our reluctance to forgive others.

Meaning & relevance today: Forgiveness is not pretending that hurt never happened. It is releasing our right to keep the wound alive and allowing God's mercy to reshape our relationships.

Reflection question: *Who or what am I still carrying in my heart that God may be inviting me to release through forgiveness?*

News & Notices

VALE DAPH TRAMACCHI: Daph's funeral will be held on Friday, 18th Sept, Graveside at Gympie Cemetery at 1.30 pm.

ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE PETS – ST FRANCIS DAY: Sunday, 4th October.

PARISH PANTRY: Non-perishable food supplies needed for our community assistance pantry. Small packets of rice, noodles, soups; Tins of tuna, chicken, beef, soups, vegetables. Snack items: Muesli bars, chips, biscuits etc

THIS WEEK: **Sun:** 8.30 am Gympie; 9.30 am Rainbow Beach | **Mon:** 9.30 am

Mainly Music | **Tue:** 5.00 pm Meditation | **Wed:** 12.00 noon Service. |

Thurs: 1-2pm Bible Study

Prayers for those in need

Jim Alford; David Arthur; Azzrah; Nicholas Barrett; Anne Brown; Pam Dorman; Jill, Holly & Alby; Christian Ford; Joyce Gall; Allan Gall; Peter Gall; Glennys; Jenny; Lillian Lochel; Val McClurg; Jeanette Penny; Daniel Saunders; Shirley Summerville; Graham and Beris Trainer; Robyn Vagg; Melodie Zylstra.

How to contribute to our Church financially

Deposits may be made by internet transfer from your bank direct to our Church Bank Account using the following information:

Account Name: Anglican Parish Gympie **BSB:** 704-901 **Accnt Number:** 0000 5910

Please use all the four zeros when entering the Accnt No.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email: gympie@anglicanchurchsq.org.au **Website:** www.anglicangympie.org.au

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