

Sunday, June 15, 2014

First Sunday after Pentecost

A reading from Genesis

Genesis 30:23 Rachel conceived and bore a son... ²⁴and she named him Joseph, [Joseph means "he adds" in Hebrew] saying, "May the Lord add to me another son!"

Genesis 33:1 Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. ²He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. ³He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother. ⁴But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

^{37:1}Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan.... ²Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper.... ³Now Israel [that is Jacob] loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a coat of many colors. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated [Joseph], and could not speak peaceably to him....

¹²Now [the] brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³And Israel [Jacob] said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." ¹⁷So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.... ²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the coat of many colors that he wore; ²⁴and they took him and threw him into a pit.... ²⁵Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

[when they told their father]

³⁴...Jacob tore his garments... and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵All his sons and all his daughters sought to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father bewailed him. ³⁶Meanwhile the Midianites had sold [Joseph] in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

Fourteen Chapters later during which ^{39:2} "The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man." and Jacob brings his whole family to Egypt.

^{50:15}[But after Jacob's death] ...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. Word of God, word of Life.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 1

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." The gospel of the Lord.