**Sentence**

*1    A seasonal sentence may be used here or after 3.*

**Seventh Sunday After Epiphany**

Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. You will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Luke 6.35

**Prayer of the Day**

**Seventh Sunday After Epiphany**

God of compassion,

keep before us the love you have revealed in your Son,

who prayed even for his enemies.

In our words and deeds help us to be like him,

through whom we pray,

Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

1st Reading

**Genesis 45.3-11,15**

**Genesis 45.3-11,15**

**15** **1** After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ **2** But Abram said, ‘O Lord God , what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ **3** And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ **4** But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ **5** He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ **6** And he believed the Lord ; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. **7** Then he said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’ **8** But he said, ‘O Lord God , how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ **9** He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’ **10** He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. **11** And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. **12** As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. **13** Then the Lord said to Abram, ‘Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; **14** but I will bring judgement on the nation that they serve, and afterwards they shall come out with great possessions. **15** As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. **16** And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.’ **17** When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. **18** On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, **19** the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, **20** the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, **21** the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.’ **45** **3** Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. **4** Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. **5** And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. **6** For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. **7** God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. **8** So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. **9** Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. **10** You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. **11** I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.”

**Psalm**

**Psalm 37.1-11,40-41**

**Psalm 37.1-11,40-41**

**1** Do not vie with the wicked:

or envy those that do wrong;

**2** For they will soon wither like the grass:

and fade away like the green leaf.

**3** Trust in the Lord and do good:

and you shall dwell in the land

and feed in safe pastures.

**4** Let the Lord be your delight:

and he will grant you your heart’s desire.

**5** Commit your way to the Lord:

trust him, and he will act.

**6** He will make your righteousness

shine as clear as the light:

and your innocence as the noonday.

**7** Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him:

do not be vexed when someone prospers,

when they put their evil purposes to work.

**8** Let go of anger and abandon wrath:

let not envy move you to do evil.

**9** For the wicked shall be cut down:

but those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land.

**10** In a little while the ungodly shall be no more:

you will look for them in their place,

but they will not be found.

**11** But the meek shall possess the land:

and enjoy the abundance of peace.

**40** Deliverance for the righteous shall come from the Lord:

he is their strength in time of trouble.

**41** The Lord will help them and deliver them:

he will save them from the ungodly and deliver them,

because they come to him for refuge.

**2nd Reading**

**1 Corinthians 15.35-50**

**1 Corinthians 15.35-50**

**35** But someone will ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?’ **36** Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. **37** And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. **38** But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. **39** Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. **40** There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. **41** There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory. **42** So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. **43** It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. **44** It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** Thus it is written, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **46** But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. **47** The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. **48** As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. **49** Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. **50** What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

**Gospel**

**Luke 6.27-38**

**Luke 6.27-38**

**27** ‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. **29** If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. **30** Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. **31** Do to others as you would have them do to you. **32** ‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. **35** But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. **37** ‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; **38** give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.’