

We come to celebrate the great gift of the Grace of God that has been given us through Jesus Christ. But many times we don't truly feel the depth of it.

Most everyone knows how Joseph forgave his brothers after they sold him into slavery. There is a great parallel here in our own forgiveness by Christ. And there should be a very close communion with the one who forgives and thereby saves you. But Joseph's brothers were never totally sure that the forgiveness was for real and forever. We may similarly feel unsure. The brothers had a greater sense (or understanding) of hunger or need, as they were in a terrible famine. They had a direct feeling of guilt for what they had done, and they had a sense of physical nearness and touch with Joseph. But they were still worried that their forgiveness would not last past Jacob's death. Perhaps they should have gathered together more often to commune together.

So Joseph indeed forgave them and embraced them. Our forgiveness, from God's Grace, is also forever. And we just need to fully embrace it and understand it. As we might modify a saying of Jesus, "One even better than Joseph is here." We are fully forgiven through Christ.