

# Where's Your Chair?

Genesis 45 16-28



Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful things.  
Psalm 72:18

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## **Praising:**

One the strain that lips of  
thousands  
lift as from the heart of one:  
one the conflict, one the peril,  
one the march in God begun:  
one the gladness of rejoicing  
on the far eternal shore,  
where the one almighty Father  
reigns in love for evermore.

## **Reading:**

Genesis 45:16-28  
Joseph sends the brothers back  
to Jacob

Once sorrow has been  
expressed, repentance  
demonstrated and total  
forgiveness received, Joseph  
sends the brothers back to Jacob  
with one final merciful flourish.  
Surely what the brothers feared  
more than anything else, was

their father discovering the truth  
of what had happened to Joseph  
and that they were the ones  
responsible. So Joseph gives  
them a way out. They are simply  
to say that Joseph is alive and  
that God has made him governor  
of Egypt. From Joseph's point of  
view, no revenge is necessary.  
He doesn't need to make them  
squirm and there is no need for  
their cold sins to be reheated.  
Although stunned by the news,  
Jacob duly reacts in innocence  
and trust and the matter is  
thereby closed. Their sin is kept  
secret from the one whom it  
would have caused the most  
pain.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

When it comes to forgiving those  
who have sinned against us

- strengthen us with the love  
Christ showed for them and  
for us on Good Friday
- fill us with sorrow for the sins  
against others we know we  
have committed
- release us from any desire to  
expose guilt or to get even

Father: I long to cry foul when  
others sin against me, but when I  
do I hear others cry foul that I  
have sinned against them. May  
sorrow meet with sorrow, and  
forgiveness be complete. Amen

## **Doing:**