

Reading for the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

15th February 2026

First reading

Sirach 15:15-20

‘He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly.’

If you desire, you will keep the commandments,
and to act faithfully is a matter of choice.
He has placed before you fire and water:
stretch out your hand for whichever you wish.
Life and death are in front of people,
and whichever one chooses will be given to him.
For great is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is mighty in power and sees everything;
his eyes are on those who fear him,
and he knows a person's every deed.
He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly,
and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119(118):1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R1b

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!
Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!
Blessed are those who keep his decrees!
With all their hearts they seek him.
You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept.
May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.
Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.
Open my eyes, that I may see the wonders of your law.
Lord, teach me the way of your statutes, and I will keep them to the end.
Grant me insight that I may keep your law, and observe it wholeheartedly.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

‘A wisdom God decreed before the ages for our glory.’

Brothers and Sisters: Among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him’ — these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 5:17-37

‘It was said to those of old; but I say to you.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

‘Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.” But I say to you: Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply “Yes” or “No”; anything more than this comes from evil.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

The Jews were proud of the Law of Moses. According to tradition, God had given it to their ancestors, as something precious and unique. In that Law was contained the will of the one true God. There they could find all that they needed to be faithful. For Jesus too the Law is important, but now it's not in the centre. He communicates another priority: God's Reign is coming, the Father is looking for a path to open among us for the building of a more human world. It's not enough for us to just keep Moses' Law. It's necessary to open ourselves to the Father and to collaborate with God in building a more just and fraternal life.

That's why it's not enough to fulfil the law that orders: “Don't kill”. It's also necessary to root out of our lives aggression, looking down on others, insults or revenge. Whoever doesn't kill fulfils the law, but if we don't free ourselves from violence, then that God who seeks to build a more human world with us still doesn't reign in our hearts.

There's a growing tendency in our society to speak in ways that express aggression. More and more we see offensive insults cast about just to humiliate, look down on others, wounding their dignity; words born of rejection, resentment, hate or revenge. How often are our own conversations woven from unjust words that spread criticism and suspicion? Words spoken without love or respect, that poison our living together and cause damage – words born of irritation, meanness or baseness.

This malice isn't just found in our day-to-day living together. The late Pope Francis warned against conflicts and confrontations between different groups. He shared this sobering thought: "It pains me greatly when some Christians can foster enmity, division, calumny, defamation, vendetta, jealousy, and the desire to impose certain ideas at all costs. Whom are we going to evangelize if this is how we act?" Ideally outsiders should be able to admire in our church how we care for one another, encourage and support each other.