

'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. Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No"; anything more than this comes from evil.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

In the Gospel today, Jesus continues with the "Sermon on the Mount" and tells the crowd that he has not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but that he has come to complete them! The law of Jesus is unlike any man-made law; it contains the hidden wisdom of God. It is a law given by love, and can only be fulfilled by genuine love and true concern for others. We hear Jesus teaching the people by saying, "You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors....." but then he follows it with, "But I say this to you....." Jesus is seeking to move us from simple obedience to the law, upwards to a higher level of spiritual awareness.

Let us open ourselves this week to receiving the law of Jesus into our hearts, let's allow him to transform us so that we too can be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" and "be perfect just as our heavenly Father is perfect."

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward.

Communion Antiphon

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Prayer after Communion

Having fed upon these heavenly delights we pray, O Lord, so that we may always long for that food by which we truly live.

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

15th February 2026

Jesus, Wisdom of God, Law of the Christian

The theme running through today's readings is wisdom. Not wisdom in an earthly sense but wisdom that comes from Jesus by following his law and his commandments as he continues his teachings with the Sermon on the Mount.

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This is why we must ask the Lord to gift us the Holy Spirit and the gift of wisdom that teaches us to see with God's eyes, to feel with God's heart to speak with God's words.

Pope Francis

Entrance Antiphon

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Collect

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.

SIRACH 15: 15-20

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. **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

The first reading from Ecclesiasticus was written by an experienced scribe in Jerusalem around 200 B.C. called Ben Sira. In today's passage he sets out the contrasting choices which face us, to which we can freely reach out our hands. It is one of the chief passages in the Bible stressing our own free will. It's up to us whether we choose good or ill, right or wrong. God calls for our love and response, but does not force us, for love must be a free act on our part.

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

Response: *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.

1 CORINTHIANS 2: 6-10

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.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

At the time of Paul's writing, some Christians believed they possessed a "wisdom" that made them "mature" or "perfect" and gave them the right to look down on others as "children". He is reminding the readers that we have received a wisdom that has come from God himself and is far beyond human understanding. This wisdom is revealed to us through the Holy Spirit who lives in us and informs us as Christians.

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

MATTHEW 5: 20-22, 27-28, 33-34, 37

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;

'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.