

Cycle A – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Feb. 12, 2023

“Love fulfills and deepens God’s commands ...”

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 119)

Leader: In my distress I called to the Lord and he answered me.

O Lord deliver me from the lying lip, from treacherous tongue.

All: O treacherous tongue? Sharp arrows of a warrior with fiery coals of brushwood, woe to me.

Leader: All too long have I dwelt with those who hate peace. When I speak of peace they are ready for war.

**All: Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!
Amen**

Gospel – Matthew 5:17-37

As a devout Jew, Jesus adhered to the Torah – the Jewish “Law of Moses” – and he was zealous about God’s commands. At the same time, he goes deeper than merely keeping the law, he also stresses love, justice, mercy and faith. In this passage from Matthew, Jesus reveals that God’s commandments are to govern our hearts, thoughts and intentions, and not only our actions. “Tearing out one’s eye” or “cutting off one’s hand or foot” are examples of hyperbole – or exaggerated speech – which is used to make a strong point about the call to conversion. The message is that sight and limbs are to be used for God’s glory, and never to abuse others or treat them as objects. Jesus stresses the dignity of the human person, and proclaims God’s design for our lives and our interactions with others.

1. Is “following the commandments” different than living as a transformed follower of Jesus?
2. What part of Jesus’ teaching challenges you the most? What comforts you?

LIVING THE WORD

What is God’s challenge for me this coming week?

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: We pray for our parish community as we strive to be salt and light in our compassion for those most in need far and near. We pray to the Lord.

Invite other intentions, then end with “Our Father ...”)

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: The word of God is a light to our feet.

All: May our lives reflect the word of God.

Leader: The word of God is a grace-filled gift.

All: May our lives reflect the word of God.

Leader: The word of God brings comfort and hope.

All: May our lives reflect the word of God.

Leader: Let us share with one another the sign of Christ’s peace.