

Sunday Message

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 15 February 2026 • Psalter Week 2



THE FULFILMENT OF THE LAW

MATTHEW 5:17-37 (SHORTER FORM MT 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34, 37)

Jesus begins by making a clear and powerful statement: He has not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfil them. This means He respects God's commandments and intends to complete and deepen their true meaning.

He then addresses several key commandments – such as “You shall not murder,” “You shall not commit adultery,” and “You shall not swear falsely.” But Jesus challenges us to look beyond simply following rules. He shows that true obedience involves the heart. It's not only about avoiding murder but also about not holding anger or insulting others. It's not just about faithfulness in marriage but also about guarding our thoughts from lust.

Jesus invites us to live by a higher standard – one that transforms our hearts and relationships. It's a call to move from external actions to inner change, seeking love, honesty, and peace.

This teaching asks us to examine our own feelings, words, and attitudes, allowing God to shape us from within, so our lives reflect His love in every part. ■

REFLECT

Jesus teaches us that following God isn't just about obeying rules on the outside – it's about what's happening inside our hearts. He says He came not to cancel the Law but to fulfil it, to bring its deeper meaning to light.

Think about anger, for example. It's easy to say, “I haven't hurt anyone,” but Jesus asks us to look closer. Are we holding anger or bitterness inside? Are we quick to insult or judge? True peace begins when we let go of these feelings and seek forgiveness.

Jesus also talks about faithfulness, not just in actions but in our thoughts. It's a reminder that what we allow in our minds shapes who we are. He challenges us to live honestly, speaking truthfully and keeping our promises.

His words call us to a higher way – one that doesn't just avoid harm but actively builds love and peace. It's about changing from the inside out, so our lives show God's kindness in everything we do.

Today, ask yourself: What is God inviting me to change in my heart? Where can I grow in love and truth? Jesus offers His help – His grace is always ready to transform us. ■

SAY

Prayer of St Augustine:

“Lord, make me pure in heart, that I may see you clearly.
Cleanse my thoughts and words,
help me to live in truth and love.
Give me the strength to forgive
and the courage to speak honestly.
Transform my heart so I may
follow you fully.”

DO

Take time today to forgive someone who has upset you – even if it's just in your heart. Let go of anger and choose peace, following Jesus' call to reconciliation and love.

LEARN

True obedience to God isn't just about following rules – it's about letting God change our hearts, so we live with love, honesty, and peace in every part of our lives.



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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Sirach 15:15-20

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

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.
Thanks be to God.

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

R. 1b

R: Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

1. 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. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept.
May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes. **R.**
3. 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. **R.**
4. 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. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL cf. Matthew 11:25**R: Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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

R: Alleluia.**GOSPEL** Matthew 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(for shorter form read between > <)

> 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. <

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. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

Or

*God so loved the world
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,
so that all who believe in him may not perish,
but may have eternal life.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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