

# The Living Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

12 February 2023

## First Reading Eccl 15:15-20

*He never commanded anyone to be godless.*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1**

**(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!  
They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.  
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. (R.)
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.  
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. (R.)
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.  
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Cor 2:6-10

*God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord

of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

## Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;**

**you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Mt 5:20-22. 27-28. 33-34. 37 (or longer form Mt 5:17-37)

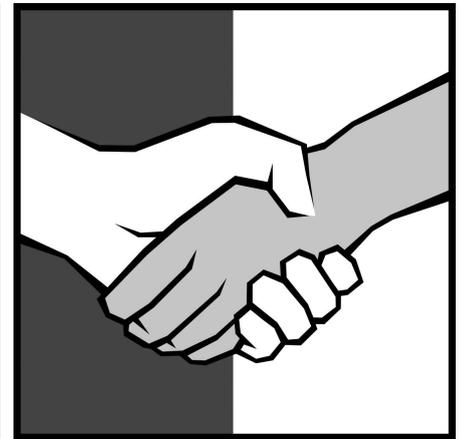
*Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

We have just heard the least observed command of Our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. Referring to oaths he taught, 'Do not swear at all ... instead let your "yes" mean yes and your "no" mean no. Whatever goes beyond these simple words is from the Evil One.'

This is strong language. Why does Our Lord say this?

In the same Sermon on the Mount, he teaches us the proper use of God's name: 'Our Father'. It is our privilege as adopted children of God to use God's name in that way. The use of God's name for oath-swearing is an *abuse*.

Our Lord was trying to establish a new sort of society (The Kingdom) within which truth-telling was of paramount importance, where there is no two-tiered way of speaking the truth.

Truth telling should issue simply from the character of the person – the truthful person *truthes*.

We know this at the very private level of intimate relationships. As a Church, we need to heed this passage and listen to the epistle of St James recalling this passage almost verbatim. (James 5:12-13)

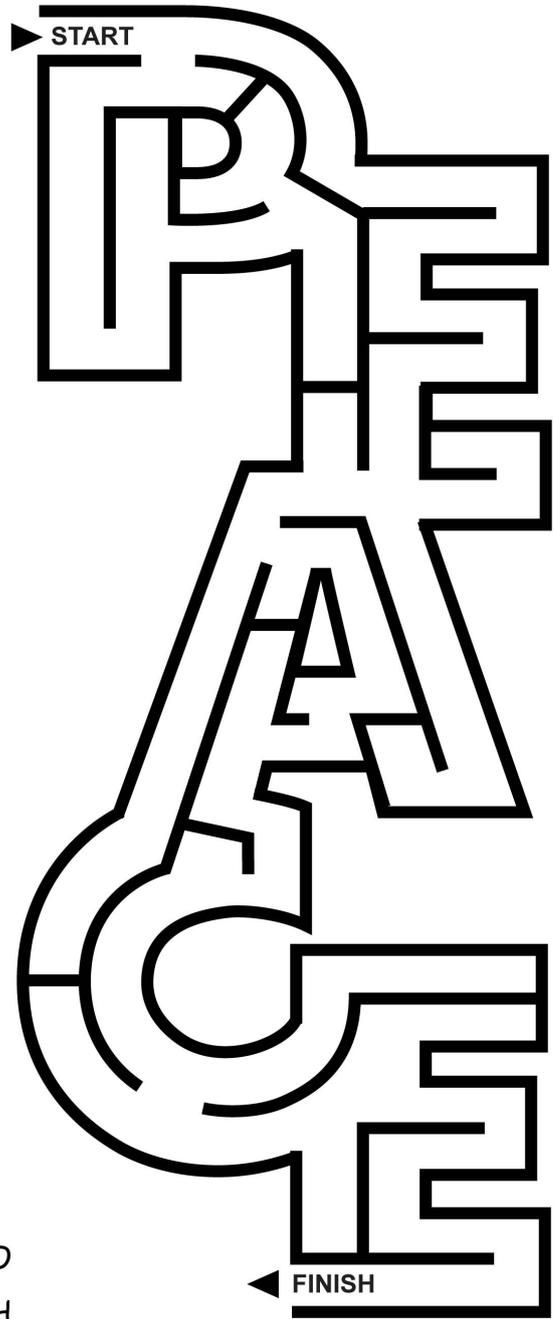
We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church herself heeds the Great Commission: 'Teach them to keep *all* that I have commanded you.' (Matthew 28:20)

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**P**aul Miki was a Japanese Jesuit priest who was well known for his preaching. During his life the number of Christians in Japan was steadily growing. This displeased the Japanese ruler, Hideyoshi. He ordered the execution of Paul Miki and 25 of his companions. They were all crucified near Nagasaki in 1597; the first Christian martyrs in Japan. It is said that Paul Miki gave his last sermon from the cross, during which he forgave his persecutors as Christ had done.

Find your way through the maze



F R O N T A G P I C V A N B O  
 B E M D U J A W H A N G R Y H  
 I G R I J O K C R M X U L Q A  
 G P A N B Q F E L E S K E D W  
 I K A L T A R Y S V O F H I D  
 F O I C D R P C A N M U A R I  
 T E M A W G O D Y T E Z N B S  
 O X U F L I Y N A S O A J O C  
 P E A C E Z D F L G N Y S G I  
 W J G A V O K S E T E D K A P  
 R E M E M B E R W B P R U M L  
 I H P A T A G R O F F E R Y E  
 F C O Q N J Y L A Z O H J P S  
 L U L E A V E I E C X U W A D  
 A K M B F E V H M P E R S O N

## Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| altar     | leave    |
| angry     | offer    |
| disciples | peace    |
| front     | person   |
| gift      | remember |
| God       | someone  |