



AMDG
6TH SUNDAY
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A
12 FEBRUARY 2017



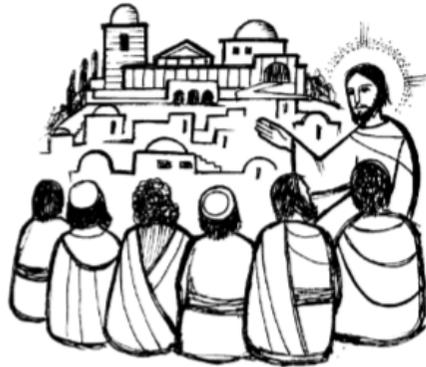
Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law.
Psalm 118

Speak Lord, your servant is listening, you have the message of eternal life. *Gospel Acclamation (verse)*

Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. *Gospel (Matthew 5: 17)*

DOES THIS IMAGE
HELP ME IN MY
PRAYER, IN
MY LIFE?



REFLECTIONS

Is there someone with whom it may be helpful to share my reflections this week?

'Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law.'

THE COLLECT

O God who teach us that 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, one God, for ever and ever.

As I prepare to pray, I take a moment to become still. I try to put aside any distractions and place my concerns into God's loving hands.

I read this brief prayer once or twice and give myself time to absorb its meaning.

I make the prayer my own. I imagine how different my life would be if everything I did was guided by God's law of love.

Today I can begin again and claim God's promise to dwell in me as I try to do what is just and right.

I spend time with my Father and pray for the grace I need to always live in his presence.

I allow myself to remain still for a while.

The readings this week are concerned with the Law of God and the way it will help us live happy and fulfilled lives. It is not a set of restrictive rules. As I settle down to pray this week's scripture texts, I may want to bring to mind my own relationship with rules and laws and ask the Spirit to guide my prayer.



Prepared by St Beunos's Outreach
in the Diocese of Wrexham.

LDS

FIRST READING: ECCLESIASTICUS 15:15-20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
To behave beautifully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
Put out your hand to which 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.

I settle down quietly and if it is possible I may want to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence. I read the text slowly, perhaps stopping and pondering each phrase in turn. Which one strikes me particularly? I stay with it and reflect.

I may not feel I have absolute freedom in the choices I make. I may indeed feel powerless or bound by exterior considerations. I turn to the Lord and tell him simply what is in my heart. I ask him to show me how I can exercise wisely the freedom of choice he has given me.

Perhaps I am drawn to focus on my almighty, all-seeing God, the one who notes my every actions. How does that make me feel, encouraged, supported or anxious and threatened or something else?

In total trust, surrendering to the Lord's vast wisdom, I speak to him about any issue this time of prayer has brought up. I thank him for being with me today.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5: 17-37 (EXTRACT)

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the law until its purpose is achieved...For 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 you must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all...All you need to say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this come from the evil one."

I read the Gospel text attentively. I notice that in this text too, much is said about the Law.

I probably do not have to search my conscience too far to find moments of anger with myself, with others. I ponder the incidents which come to mind. How have I dealt with them? I speak to the Lord about those times in my own words.

Jesus understands human nature. My thoughts and my words are often the way I break God's law of love. I spend some time reflecting on how I have been lacking in love and compassion towards myself, my family, the people I meet.

To conclude my time of prayer I may want to tell the Lord in my own words how sorry I am for these times. I listen to him in the silence of my heart.