



LIVING IN THE LIGHT

## The Word

### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Week of February 12

#### ***Call to Prayer and Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader invites all into a few moments of silent reflection to remember that we are in the presence of God. (reflective pause)*
  
- ✦ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son . . . ."*

#### ***The Word of God***

- ✦ *Leader reads part or all of one of the scripture texts from the previous Sunday.*

Matthew 5: 17-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets.

I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away,

not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter

will pass from the law,

until all things have taken place.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments

and teaches others to do so

will be called least in the kingdom of heaven.

But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments

will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses

that of the scribes and Pharisees,

you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors,

You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.

But I say to you,

whoever is angry with his brother

will be liable to judgment;

and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,'

will be answerable to the Sanhedrin;

and whoever says, 'You fool,'

will be liable to fiery Gehenna.

Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar,

and there recall that your brother

has anything against you,

leave your gift there at the altar,  
go first and be reconciled with your brother,  
and then come and offer your gift.  
Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court.  
Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge,  
and the judge will hand you over to the guard,  
and you will be thrown into prison.  
Amen, I say to you,  
you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said,  
You shall not commit adultery.  
But I say to you,  
everyone who looks at a woman with lust  
has already committed adultery with her in his heart.  
If your right eye causes you to sin,  
tear it out and throw it away.  
It is better for you to lose one of your members  
than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna.  
And if your right hand causes you to sin,  
cut it off and throw it away.  
It is better for you to lose one of your members  
than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.

"It was also said,  
Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.  
But I say to you,  
whoever divorces his wife - unless the marriage is unlawful -  
causes her to commit adultery,  
and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors,  
Do not take a false oath,  
but make good to the Lord all that you vow.  
But I say to you, do not swear at all;  
not by heaven, for it is God's throne;  
nor by the earth, for it is his footstool;  
nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.  
Do not swear by your head,  
for you cannot make a single hair white or black.  
Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.'  
Anything more is from the evil one."

### ***Faith Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader reminds everyone of the Question of the Week which relates to the particular group gathered . . . .*

**Children:** When did you take the first step to make up with someone who hurt you or whom you hurt?

**Teens:** Which “new law” of Jesus’ is hardest to keep?

**Adults:** How do you know and accept God’s love through his laws?

We offer this form of contemplative sharing for pondering Scripture while considering the question, and for the faith sharing which follows.

- Listen/ Read (Lectio): Ponder God’s word and listen for what touches your heart.
- Meditate (Meditatio): Notice what you notice. Allow God’s word to resonate in you.
- Speak/Share (Oratio): Prayerfully share with the group your thoughts and feelings.
- Rest in God’s presence (Contemplatio): Notice God’s presence and be still, surrounded by God’s love.

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow about 15 minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of three or four for faith sharing.*

- ✦ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*
- ✦ *Continue with the meeting, turning to the agenda.*

### ***Concluding the meeting***

*At the end of the meeting, the leader closes with the following prayer:*

Good and Gracious God,  
your love for us surpasses all understanding.  
As we leave here today,  
be with us in all our comings and goings,  
and in all that we say and do.  
We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus who is our Light.  
Amen.