

Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A)

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen

FIRST READING A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus (15:16-20)

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.
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.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 118:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34. R. v.1)

R. They are happy who follow God's law!

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.**

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **R.**

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

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

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 A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (2:6-10)

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. **The word of the Lord.**

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:17-37)

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, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'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; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something

Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Year A)

against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

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. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than have your whole body go to hell.'

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.'

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, either by heaven, since that is God's throne, or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes or "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.' **The Gospel of the Lord.**

The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.**

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all Bow until man)**

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of
the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen**

Matthew 5:17-20 The Law and the Prophets

Matthew had spoken earlier about how incidents in the life of Jesus fulfilled what was spoken by the *prophets* [1:22; 2:5; 2:15,17,23; 4:14]. He now used the same word *fulfil* to refer to Jesus' approach to *law*. The word *law* translated the Hebrew word "Torah", which referred, not only to the Ten Commandments, but to the whole way of life consequent on the people's covenant relationship with God.

Jesus' *fulfilling* was to be seen in contrast to *annulling*. Jesus would bring a new mindset to the Torah. He was not the first to do this. The prophets had consistently interpreted and studied the Torah in depth, teasing out its consequences, purifying it and applying it to the ever-changing social conditions. In Jesus' day, the Pharisee movement had elaborated a complex body of detailed traditions by which it aimed to relate the Torah to the particulars of everyday living.

In protesting Jesus' faithfulness to the Torah, Matthew was responding to the criticisms of many of the Jews of his own day who accused Christians of abandoning the law.