

**SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR C

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God, heavenly teacher,
show us how we ought to live.
Although following Jesus
may at times be difficult
and even unpopular,
give us the confidence
always to be faithful to him.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both of our readings focus on trust in God. In the reading from Jeremiah, this is imaged by living plants. Those who trust in this world are like plants deprived of water, the source of life. Those who trust in God produce fruit because they receive water from the source of life. We must put our trust in God, who alone gives real life.

In our Gospel, Luke also contrasts those who live by the ways of the world and those who live the ways of God. The Beatitudes present the ultimate paradox of Christian life and can only be lived (or even seen as worthwhile) by the believer whose source of grace is Christ. It takes complete trust to live the Beatitudes.

Live by my Word, and you will be blessed.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Our God says,

“People who don’t trust in God
and who don’t love God
do not have real joy.
They are like plants in the desert,
plants that don’t have water.
But people who trust in God and love God
are blessed.
They are like trees
that are planted beside running water.
Their leaves stay green,
and they always bear fruit.”

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Psalm 18

RESPONSE:

I love you God, for you are my strength. You are my God. I
give you my praise. praise. You are my God. _____

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

1. "You are bless - ed, all you who hear me;
2. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
1. you are bless - ed, live by my Word."
2. al - le - lu - ia, "Live by my Word."

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17, 20-26

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

When Jesus and his disciples
came down from the mountain,
a great crowd of people
came from all over to hear him teach
and be healed of their diseases.
Jesus looked at his disciples and said,

“Blessed are you if you are poor now,
because God’s kingdom belongs to you.

“Blessed are you if you are hungry now,
because later you will have all the food you need.

“Blessed are you if you are sad now,
because later you will laugh.

“Blessed are you if people hate you
and say bad things about you
just because you believe in me.
Be happy about that,
because you will have a great reward in heaven.
People have always treated the prophets
in just the same way.

[“But pay attention you who are rich now.
It will be sad for you later,
because you have already had
what you wanted.

“It will be sad for you later
if you have more food than you need,
because one day you will be hungry.
It will be sad for you later
if you can laugh now,
because one day you will cry.

“It will be sad for you later
if everyone says only good things
about you now,
because people have always treated
the false prophets in the same way.”]

This is the Good News of the Lord.

[] Reader may omit text that appears in brackets.

**REFLECTING ON THE READINGS
WITH CHILDREN:**

Reflecting on the Beatitudes will not be easy with children, for they present the opposite of all that seems reasonable. Poverty, sorrow, hunger, and mistreatment will hardly seem like blessings. But two things may be hoped for with the children.

1) To provide familiarity with the Beatitudes, the heart of the Christian way of life. Here again, we are planting seeds that, with life’s experience and God’s constant grace, will grow to maturity. It is enriching for children to hear and be familiar with the truths of our faith even if they are not completely understood.

2) To help the children understand that, *whatever our condition in life, God asks for our trust.* If we are poor or hungry, or sad or mistreated, God can and will make things right. This may, of course, only be known in heaven. Likewise, if we have more than we need, we must trust that when we share what we have, *God will continue to take care of us and bless us.* Sorrow comes when we don’t trust God and, therefore, live selfishly rather than for others.