

Readings + 6th Sunday after Epiphany, Lect. 6 C + February 16, 2025

Prayer of the Day

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the
wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse –
who can understand it?

¹⁰I the LORD test the mind and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Psalmody Psalm 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the
counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way
of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and
they meditate on God's teaching day and
night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do
not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked; they are like
chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright
when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the
council of the righteous.

**For the LORD knows the way of the
righteous, but the way of the wicked shall
be destroyed.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Paul writes: ¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that God raised Christ – whom God did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Holy Gospel Luke 6:17-26

Matthew sets a large number of Jesus' teachings (chapters 5-7) on a mountain, what we call "the Sermon on the Mount." Luke sets this first set of teachings of Jesus "on a level place." Both Matthew and Luke begin with Jesus' list of blessings; only Luke includes a series of "woes" in parallel.

¹⁷Jesus came down with the twelve [he had just chosen as leaders] and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then Jesus looked up at the great crowd of his disciples and said:

“You who are poor are blessed, for yours is the reign of God.

²¹ You who are hungry now are blessed, for you will be filled.

You who weep now are blessed, for you will laugh.

²² You are blessed when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son-of-Humanity.

²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely

your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”