**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Call to Prayer:** All-gracious God, the loving plan of your wisdom took flesh in Jesus Christ, and changed humankind’s history by the command of perfect love. May our fulfillment of this command reflect your wisdom and bring your salvation to the ends of the earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A reading from the holy gospel according to 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 brother will be liable to judgment;
and whoever says to 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.”

The gospel of our Lord

**Focus:** “If you trust in God,” choosing life, good and mercy, “you too shall live” – you shall live the life of the Blessed Trinity.

**Questions for reflection and sharing:**

1. What words or phrases speak to you?
2. Jesus declares that our righteousness must surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees. In what does that righteousness consist?
3. The gospels are filled with Good News. The standards are high but the grace is there. How do you feel about your calling to live the gospel?

**Concluding prayer:** Almighty God, you have promised to remain forever with those who do what is just and right. Help us to live in your presence. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.