

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Cycle A**  
**February 15, 2026**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Sirach 15: 15 – 20.**

*God commands no one to act unjustly.*

**Psalm 119: 1 – 2, 4 – 5, 17 – 18, 33 – 34.**

*Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 6 – 10.**

*God predestined wisdom before the ages for our glory.*

**Gospel: Matthew 5: 17 – 37.**

*So, it was said by your ancestors; but I say this to you.*

God is good, All the time; All the time, God is good.”

Friends, here we are the week before our Lent 2026 begins, celebrating the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. If I were going to offer a title for the theme running through our Scriptures today it would be “Our God is an awesome God.” And what a plan that God has for each one of us. It’s kind of like last night I had a dream, and God’s love came through for us. What we are missing is the end of the sermon on the mount where we find Jesus asking each of us to do everything in a nonviolent and peaceful manner. (that would be the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time). What an awesome God we have!

Back to today, in our first reading of Sirach, the wise teacher encourages us to choose wisely, and he insists that we know what that is. To choose to do wrong even with good intentions never seems to please God or turn out well for us. We do have an awesome God who loves us enough to keep us on the straight and narrow and always offers us a way back.

Paul in his letter to the Corinthians is still dealing with the division in the community and reminds us of all that, no matter what, we have only one

God and we are not God. Important to remember as we move about our daily lives, trying to change the world and giving praise and glory to our God who is an awesome God. I remember a time when I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and we did our homework at the kitchen table, after dishes, and my sister Pat and my brother Mark (keeping in mind there is only a total of 3 years between our ages, and I was 11) were continuing some disagreement that started during the dishes. I tried to resolve it with them (probably not in the best fashion) and my father called me into the living room where he was in his recliner and asked me to kneel down and bopped me on the head saying, "I want you to remember who is in charge here!" I must admit that I still remember that lesson, not the parenting skill.

Then our Gospel continues with Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. In today's passage Jesus actually uses hyperbole to make his point. He certainly doesn't want us to be a people with just one eye or one hand. He does want us to realize that our actions do have consequences; and in choosing them we need to weigh out what they may be and to ultimately make the choice that leads to love. As Martin Luther King reminded us Love is not the answer it is the only answer. Our psalm today (psalm 119) really points us to this answer:

You're blessed when you stay the course,  
Walking steadily on the road revealed by God.  
You're blessed when you follow God's directions,  
Doing your best to find God.  
You, God, prescribed the right way to live;  
Now you expect us to live it.  
Oh, that my steps might be steady,  
Keeping to the course you set.  
Be generous with me and I'll live a full life;  
Not for a minute will I take my eyes off your road.  
Open my eyes so I can see  
What you show me of your miracle-wonders.  
God, teach me lessons for living

So, I can stay the course.  
Give me insight so I can do what you tell me –  
My whole life one long, obedient response. (The Message)

Allow me to wrap this in a nice bow by quoting one of my favorite Fr. Jim O'Leary quotes (and we heard it here) "To do great deeds in life is not enough. We must be great people. We must use our capacity for intimacy. We must be open to close friendships. In a word, we must be good at 'loving.' Loving is the power we have to be most like God. In the end, I think our lives will be measured on the quality of our human relationships. This is where we must put our energies and efforts. At the end of our lives, we will see clearly that everything else is piffle." (*fiddle-faddle.*) What an awesome God we have!

**God is good. All the time. All the time. God is good.**