

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

‘How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

‘Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

‘But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

‘Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

13 FEBRUARY 2022

FAITH IN OUR RESURRECTION

All of us search for the path that leads to life and this search calls us to make decisions. Which path should we choose? Where are we to find the wellsprings that will give us living water? Jeremiah places the two paths before us by contrasting the shrub that dies in the desert with the tree that is planted by water. In a similar fashion, Jesus places two options before his listeners in the beatitudes and the woes. God’s ways are often not ours and the path that leads to the living God may be marked by difficulty and persecution.

As far as Paul was concerned some of the Corinthian Christians had taken the wrong path because they did not understand that bodily resurrection is an essential element of Christian belief. Some of them had come to the mistaken belief that a consequence of their baptism was that they were already in their glorified bodies. Paul sets out to shock the Corinthians by showing them the consequences and inherent dangers of their point of view. He knew that our present body must be changed into a glorified one at the resurrection of the dead. How could he bring them to see the error of their point of view? He bases his argument upon the fact that just as Jesus’ body was glorified at his resurrection, so it will be with those who follow him. Jesus is to be seen as the first fruits of a harvest that is to come at the fullness of time.

FIRST READING

Jer 17: 5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.

The Lord says this:

‘A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.

‘A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.’

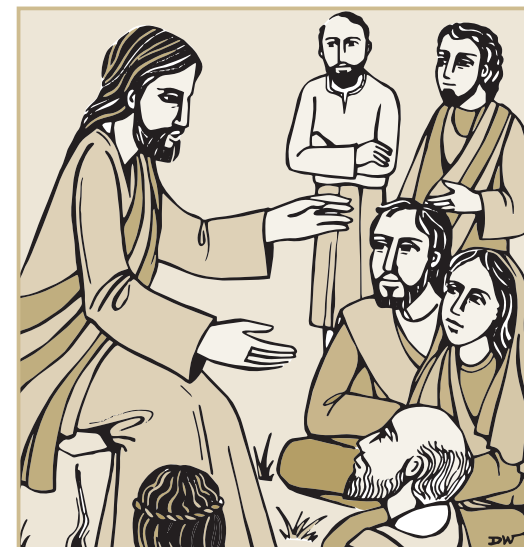
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 1: 1-4. R. Ps 39: 5

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

- Happy indeed is the man / who follows not the counsel of the wicked; / nor lingers in the way of sinners / nor sits in the company of scorners, / but whose delight is the law of the Lord / and who ponders his law day and night. **R.**
- He is like a tree that is planted / beside the flowing waters, / that yields its fruit in due season / and whose leaves shall never fade; / and all that he does shall prosper. **R.**
- Not so are the wicked, not so! / For they like winnowed chaff / shall be driven away by the wind. / For the Lord guards the way of the just / but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 15: 12, 16-20

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 6: 23

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!**