

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr C)

Reading 1

*Citation:* Jeremiah, Chap. 17, Verses 5-8  
Jeremiah 17: 5-8

**Jeremiah is advising his people to be mindful of their need to Trust their God. He is strongly putting down those have turned away from God's commands and Will. There is a tonal difference between the two sections of the reading. Help your listeners hear the difference.**

### **A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah**

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings,  
who seeks his strength in flesh,  
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

(very short pause)  
(disdain) (very short pause)  
(voice goes up slightly)  
(voice goes down) (short pause)

He is like a barren bush in the desert  
that enjoys no change of season,  
but stands in a lava waste,  
a salt and empty earth.

(more disdain)  
(voice goes down) (very short pause)  
(more disdain)  
(slow; voice goes down)

Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,  
whose hope is the LORD.

(more up-beat!)  
(very short pause)

He is like a tree planted beside the waters  
that stretches out its roots to the stream:  
it fears not the heat when it comes;  
its leaves stay green;  
in the year of drought it shows no distress,  
but still bears fruit.

(very short pause)  
(extreme confidence)  
(very short pause)  
(triumph!)

**The word of the Lord.**

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**(Yr C)**

Reading 2

*Citation:* 1 Corinthians, Chap. 15, Verses 12, 16-20  
1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20

**Paul argues for the truth of Jesus' resurrection as the means for our salvation. He is not as dead serious as the text might imply; at the same time, though, he is very serious and builds his case to a very confident conclusion. Be Paul!**

**A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

Brothers and sisters:

If Christ is preached as raised from the dead,  
how can some among you say  
there is no resurrection of the dead?

(get attention; this is serious!)  
(very short pause)  
(very short pause)  
(almost a quotation by itself!)

If the dead are not raised,  
neither has Christ been raised,  
and if Christ has not been raised,  
your faith is vain;  
you are still in your sins.

(can't believe it!)  
(his conclusion) (short pause)  
(disbelief)  
(sorrowful conclusion)  
(no hope in your voice!)

Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

(calamitous)

If  
for this life only  
we have hoped in Christ,  
we are the most pitiable people of all.

(a big "If!")  
(parenthetical expression)  
(sorrowful, dismay)

But now  
Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

(expectant!)  
(key word: "has" !)  
(immense gratitude)

**The word of the Lord.**

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GOSPEL

Citation: Luke, Chap. 6, Verses 17, 20-26  
Luke 6: 17, 20-26

**Luke's version of the Beatitudes. Jesus is encouraging toward those who choose to believe in him – mostly the marginalized. He has no compassion at all for those on the top of the pile who are choosing the world and its pleasures. In fact, He is issuing a dire warning.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

Jesus came down with the Twelve  
and stood on a stretch of level ground  
with a great crowd of his disciples  
and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem  
and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon.

[This is one l-o-n-g sentence so be  
careful NOT make it choppy as  
you proclaim it.]

(very short pause)

And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said:

[A list! Vary tone, pace, etc.]

"Blessed are you who are poor,  
for the kingdom of God is yours.

(be upbeat as you proclaim the list)

Blessed are you who are now hungry,  
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who are now weeping,  
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,  
and when they exclude and insult you,  
and denounce your name as evil  
on account of the Son of Man.

(very concerned)

Rejoice and leap for joy on that day!

(a bit parenthetical)

Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.

(gladness!)

For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way.

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

(change tone – warning!)

(but not anger – a warning)

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

Woe to you who laugh now,  
for you will grieve and weep.

Woe to you when all speak well of you,  
for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way."

(Pause)

**The Gospel of the Lord.**