

Sixth Sunday | Year A

February 12th, 2023 (Sir 15:15-20 | 1 Cor 2:6-10 | Mt 5:17-37)

The wisdom of Ben Sira inspires us to trust in God and to follow his teaching imbued in our hearts. For trusting God and walking uprightly is the first step toward salvation. Let us pray.

1/ We are blessed as long as we love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with our whole self. This is God's only law. For all assemblies of God. We pray that all God-fearing peoples, led by Pope Francis, may always walk in this law of God. Let us pray.

2/ The other side of this law of loving God is that we love and care for the ones near to us in just the same way as we want them to care for us. At the end of each day, to say that we love and believe in God means that we treat well and love the ones near to us. For people without love. We pray that they be touched by their neighbors' care and good deeds. Let us pray.

3/ Paul points out two opposite images of wisdom: the higher one is our trust in God whereas the lower one is our dependence on human powers. God lives forever whereas human beings wither. For power-hungry world rulers and despots. We pray that they come to sense not to rely on human forces, but to worship God and to trust in his love and wisdom. Let us pray.

4/ The actions that we take often go in contrast with what we wish to lead our lives. At times, we let our "Yes" mean "No," and allow our "No" mean "Yes." But God is always forgiving. For our sisters and brothers who might have unknowingly failed in their journey on earth. We pray that, because of their longing for Jesus, God grant them eternal life. Today we remember [at 4:30 Mass] Hattie and Wallace Frakes and Deceased Family Members, Robert and Hazel Hardesty and Deceased Family Members, and Joan Bell Whelan; [at 10:00 Mass] Nick Ford, James and Virginia Wilkins, Elizabeth King, and Joan Bell Whelan. Let us pray.

Father in heaven, the loving plan of your wisdom took flesh in Jesus Christ, and changed our human history by his command of perfect love. May our fulfillment of Jesus's command of love reflect your wisdom and truth. May our works of love and care for one another bring your salvation to the ends of the earth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.