

livingtheword

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listening to and living the Sunday Readings

Reading 1

In those days, God delivered all these commandments:

"I, the LORD am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain.

"Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11

R. (John 6:68c) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.
The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul;
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.
R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.
The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the command of the LORD is clear,

enlightening the eye.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true, all of them just.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. They are more precious than gold, than a heap of purest gold;
sweeter also than syrup or honey from the comb.
R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Reading II

1 Cor 1:22-25

Brothers and sisters:

Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Gospel

Jn 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen,

and spilled the coins of the money changers
and overturned their tables,
and to those who sold doves he said,
"Take these out of here,
and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture,
Zeal for your house will consume me.
At this the Jews answered and said to him,
"What sign can you show us for doing this?"
Jesus answered and said to them,
"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."
The Jews said,
"This temple has been under construction for forty-six
years, and you will raise it up in three days?"
But he was speaking about the temple of his body.
Therefore, when he was raised from the dead,
his disciples remembered that he had said this,
and they came to believe the Scripture
and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,
many began to believe in his name when they saw the
signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to
them because he knew them all, and did not need
anyone to testify about human nature. He himself
understood it well.

Reflection Questions

- What word, phrase or idea struck you in the reading?
- What do you think God is trying to say to you personally?
- Jewish Rabbi's would dance with the books of the Law, it was a treasure and a link to the marriage covenant and relationship that God had promised with his chosen people. What strikes you about this image of 'dancing' with the law?
- The word 'command' literally means something 'placed in one's hand'. Like a letter from a close friend or special advice from a wise grandparent. Which bit of advice from the 10 commandments may I need to listen to and respect more in my life at the moment?
- St Paul invites Christians to be clear, it is not wisdom, special knowledge or worldly power that saves - it is the saving event of Jesus on the cross. Jews considered this full of 'shame', Greeks couldn't believe that God who is so powerful could actually 'do' this. What is your response to Jesus on the cross?
- Jesus' first public action in the Gospel of John is to cleanse and purify the temple. It is a most dramatic action, Jesus replaces the temple and its sacrifices, its legalistic ritual, with his Body, his intimate presence. Has my image and experience of the Church changed over time? A Marketplace with all of its conflict? Legalistic ritual and laws? Intimate presence and communion with God?
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?