

SERIES A TEXTS

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany/Lectionary 7

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: **You** shall be holy, for I the LORD **your** God am holy.

⁹ When you reap the harvest of **your** land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD **your** God. ¹¹ **You** shall not steal; **you** shall not deal falsely; and **you** shall not lie to one another.

¹² And **you** shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. ¹³ You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴ You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. ¹⁵ **You** shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. ³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. ³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. ³⁶ Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. ³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways. ³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you. ³⁹ Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. ⁴⁰ See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

¹⁶ Do **you** not know that **you** are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in **you**? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and **you** are that temple. ¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." ²¹ So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are **yours**, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future-- all belong to **you**, ²³ and **you** belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

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Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

"**You** have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'³⁹ But I say to **you**, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also;⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well;⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.⁴² Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.⁴³ "**You** have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to **you**, Love **your** enemies and pray for those who persecute **you**,⁴⁵ so that **you** may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.⁴⁶ For if **you** love those who love **you**, what reward do **you** have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?⁴⁷ And if **you** greet only **your** brothers and sisters, what more are **you** doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as **your** heavenly Father is perfect.