

February 16, 2020 6th Sunday in Ordinary time

The Lord's Wisdom is beyond all telling!

Sirach 15:15-20

Psalms 119:1-5, 17-18, 33-34

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Matthew 5:17-37

In the first reading Sirach reminds us that we are to keep the commandments as a matter of loyalty. The Lord is mighty in power, all-seeing, and understands man's every need. However, no one is ever given the command to sin or the strength to lie. Spiritual life is as refreshing water but death is as painful as fire.

The Psalmist is clear on how happiness comes about. It flows from blameless ways, following the Lord's teaching, observing the Lord's decrees and precepts, and seeking the Lord with whole heart. He also asks that his eyes be opened so that the wonders of the teachings be clearly seen and insights appreciated.

In the second reading Paul tells the Corinthians that the Wisdom of Christ is for the mature. It is not of this worldly age, and in fact God's Wisdom is mysteriously hidden and not known even to those with great worldly power. Wisdom for the believer is revealed through the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel Jesus emphasizes that he came to fulfill the Law. In his eyes the greatest are those who teach the Law and obey it themselves. We are not to be angry with our brothers and sisters and if there is a problem then seek reconciliation as soon as possible. We are to be pure in thought, in word, and in deed and always be honest. Every yes or no is to be as truthful as if we were under oath.

**The Wisdom of the Father
Is the Son
Revealed by the Holy Spirit.**

Wisdom is not to be confused with worldly knowledge. It is a special gift from the Holy Spirit and gives insights on the wonders of the Lord's teaching and insights on how to observe these precepts. God's Wisdom is immense and its power is mighty. It enables the believer see how good and pure are the Lord's ways and inspires one to follow them wholeheartedly. Even happiness is a by-product of being blameless and walking on Wisdom's paths. We are called to seek Wisdom with all of our hearts.

+++

Consider the words of Bishop Isaac of Nineveh who lived in the 7th century:

Seek precious things from the One who does not withhold; you will receive honor from Him because of the wise choice of your will. Solomon asked for wisdom and he received an earthly kingdom with it because he knew how to ask wisely, that is, great things from the King. Elisha asked for a double share of his master's spirit and his request was not denied him. The King's honor is diminished by the one who asks Him for base things.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Come Spirit of Wisdom

O Lord you are great and powerful, your wisdom beyond all telling.¹ In your kindness and generosity send down upon me, who trusts in you, the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen me in following Christ. On the way to wisdom only you can direct me.² Guide me into having a gentle heart where wisdom will rest.³ Remind me to keep serious thought of Wisdom as that brings the perfection of prudence.⁴ It is much better to acquire wisdom than gold!⁵

Come Spirit of Understanding

Father in heaven, with your unailing help I shall understand your ways. I desire to *get wisdom, get understanding,⁶ at the cost of all I have.⁷ Grant me discernment that I may learn your commands⁸ and your holy purposes. To acquire understanding is more desirable than silver. (5)*

Come Spirit of Counsel

Father all-knowing, send upon me *a spirit of counsel and strength,⁹ and prudence to purify my heart [(3), p. 71]. You sent your only Son for our salvation, and told us to listen to him.¹⁰ Inspire me with His gift of counsel to guide me¹¹ into doing what is best.*

Come Spirit of Fortitude

Father all-powerful, help me overcome my weaknesses with the help of the Holy Spirit. I need courage to bolster my human frailty. Wisdom's works are virtues; *She teaches moderation and prudence, justice and fortitude.¹²*

¹ Psalm 147:5

² Proverbs 4:11

³ *The Mind's Long Journey to the Holy Trinity,*
The Ad Monachos of Evagrius Ponticas, J.
Driscoll, Liturgical Press, 1991, p.40.

⁴ Wisdom 6:15

⁵ Proverbs 16:16

⁶ Proverbs 4:5

⁷ Proverbs 4:7

⁸ Psalm 119:73

⁹ Isaiah 11:2

¹⁰ Mark 9:7

¹¹ Psalm 73:24

¹² Wisdom 8:7



Come Spirit of Knowledge

Father all-wise and knowing, *you have probed me and you know me.¹³ Grant that the Holy Spirit may impart upon me gentleness out of which knowledge is born[(3),p.61], that I may better be able to love and serve those I encounter in life. Give me an understanding heart and fill it with wisdom and knowledge.¹⁴ Without knowledge even my zeal is not good.¹⁵ Just as a tree cannot reach towards the heavens without water so my heart cannot be raised up without knowledge of the "living water."¹⁶ True knowledge is a feast of God [(3),p.43], and as a crown is for the head, knowledge of God is a crown for the heart [(3), p.39].*

Come Spirit of Piety

Father most holy, help me to *dedicate myself to justice and reap the fruit of piety.¹⁷ The grace of the Holy Spirit will help me persevere to piety¹⁸ and lead a tranquil life in perfect piety and dignity.¹⁹ This same grace humbles me before the sanctity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Confirm me in the Spirit by the gift of piety.*

Come Spirit of Fear

Father of Christ and our Father fill me with awe and reverence and fear which also is a gift of the Holy Spirit. *The fear of the Lord is training for wisdom²⁰ and your unimagined power is often forgotten because of your divine gentleness and mercy. Inspire me to serve You and neighbor in a fitting way.*

The Holy Spirit scrutinizes all matters,
even the deep things of God.(1 Corinthians 2:10)

<http://Melkaplace.com>

¹³ Psalm 139:1

¹⁴ Sirach 17:6

¹⁵ Proverbs 19:2

¹⁶ John 4:10

¹⁷ Hosea 10:12

¹⁸ 2 Peter 1:6

¹⁹ 1 Timothy 2:2

²⁰ Proverbs 15:33