

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025

	<b>Gospel (Luke 6:17.20-26)</b>	<b>First Reading (Jeremiah 17:5-8)</b>	<b>Second Reading (1 Corinthians 15:12.16-20)</b>
<b>Context</b>	Jesus was the ideal human and lived the perfect human life. This section of Luke's gospel resembles the Sermon on the Mount, which is described in chapters 5 to 7 of Mathew's gospel.	Jeremiah was called by God to prophesy to the southern kingdom of Judah. Jeremiah confronted the leaders and people with their sin, and prophesied both their captivity in Babylon and their eventual return from exile.	Paul wrote to the Corinthians to identify problems, offer solutions, and to teach believers how to live in Christ. In today's passage, Paul clarifies the significance of Christ's resurrection from the dead.
<b>Key verses</b>	<b><i>"How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God."</i></b>	<b><i>"A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord."</i></b>	<b><i>"...if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins."</i></b>
<b>Key themes/ messages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verses 6:20-23 are called the Beatitudes, which comes from the Latin word "blessing". They show us how expectations derived from the Old Testament are fulfilled in God's kingdom.</li> <li>• Jesus describes what it means to be a follower of Christ.</li> <li>• The hunger Jesus refers to may be a spiritual hunger, as well as a physical hunger.</li> <li>• Jesus contrasts the value of God's kingdom with worldly values, and explains that greater rewards are promised to those who endure suffering in this world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeremiah contrasts two types of people: those who trust in God and those who trust in human beings. Note how Luke's gospel also similarly contrasts the blessings God offers us with standards associated with the world we live in.</li> <li>• The people of Judah had placed their trust in false gods and military power instead of God.</li> <li>• Those who trust in God will be given spiritual strength and prosperity. They can also be confident that God will protect them in difficult times.</li> <li>• Those who place their trust in human beings will lack spiritual strength and will face challenges in times of trouble.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the time he wrote to the Corinthians, Paul knew that some people did not believe that their bodies would be raised after death. Paul's letter cleared up any confusion about bodily resurrection.</li> <li>• If Christ had not been resurrected from the dead, Christians could not be forgiven for their sins and we could never hope for eternal life.</li> <li>• It is essential for us to have complete faith in Christ's death and resurrection.</li> <li>• Paul confirms that Christ has in fact been raised from the dead and we are therefore assured that God's promise of salvation will be fulfilled.</li> </ul>
<b>Questions/ application to our lives</b>	Jesus' words teach us that we should not seek short-term comfort at the expense of eternal life. To what extent does your life currently reflect this teaching? Does reading the Beatitudes give you greater comfort that those who face daily challenges will be blessed and rewarded?	In whom do you place trust for blessings and spiritual protection in your life? Do you tend to turn to God only in times of trouble, or do you take time to gain spiritual strength that you can draw upon when challenges arise? What steps can you take to strengthen your personal relationship with God?	Why does Paul tell us that you are "still in your sins" if Christ has not been raised? In your experience, do you think that some Christians doubt or misunderstand the significance of Christ's resurrection? If so, what can fellow Christians do to offer clarification and provide reassurance?
<b>Further reading</b>	Catechism 1820	Catechism 2544-2547	Catechism 655, 989-991, 1002-1003