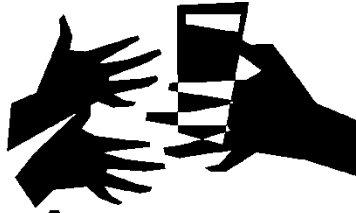


THEME FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2011  
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



And if **anyone**  
**gives** even a cup  
of cold **water** to  
one of these  
**little ones...**  
he will **certainly**  
not lose his  
**reward.**

Matthew 10:42



**Connecting Points:  
Our Vision in Action**

Identify three things that would qualify as a “cup of cold water to one of these little ones” in our culture today. Discuss them as a family or with friends and put one into action in the coming week.

What do you think it means to love Jesus more than our parents and our children? Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into a relationship with Jesus that surpasses any other in your life.

*Connecting People to Christ Now and Forever*

# THEME FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2011

## THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Small things that Show the Big Thing

#### Matthew 10: 34 – 42

When Jesus speaks of sharing a cup of cold water, he is speaking of a faith-filled and practical response to His message of salvation. Christianity and our relationship with God is certainly *personal*, but not meant to be *private*. Our life with God is a life that is designed to touch others' lives in practical ways.

#### Introit Selected verses from Psalms 62 and 145

- L: Trust in Him at all times, O people;  
C: **Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.**  
L: For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
C: **From Him comes my salvation.**  
L: He only is my rock and my salvation,  
C: **My fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.**  
L: On God rests my salvation and my glory;  
C: **My mighty rock, my refuge is God.**  
L: Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this:  
C: **That power belongs to God,**  
L: And that to You, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.  
C: **For You will render to a man according to his work.**  
L: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
C: **And His greatness is unsearchable.**  
L: One generation shall commend Your works to another,  
C: **And shall declare Your mighty acts.**  
L: On the glorious splendor of Your majesty,  
C: **And on Your wondrous works, I will meditate.**  
L: They shall speak of the might of Your awesome deeds,  
C: **And I will declare Your greatness.**  
ALL: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
L: Trust in Him at all times, O people;  
C: **Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.**

# THEME FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2011

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### Old Testament Lesson      Jeremiah 8: 5 – 9      Responses page 221

(False prophets preach what their hearers want to hear, promising peace even when the Lord has spoken “*war, famine, and pestilence*” [v. 8]. But if “*the Lord has truly sent the prophet*”, he speaks what the Lord has spoken, and “*the word of the prophet comes to pass*”.)

<sup>5</sup>Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, <sup>6</sup>and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup>Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup>The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup>As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

### Epistle Lesson

### Romans 7: 1 – 13

(God’s Law is hard, because it confronts sin, brings it to light and makes it worse, “*sinful beyond measure*”, thereby “*producing death*” in the sinner [v.13]. But through our Baptism into Christ, we have been raised from the dead with Him, “*in order that we may bear fruit for God*”.)

<sup>1</sup>Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? <sup>2</sup>For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. <sup>3</sup>Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

<sup>4</sup>Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. <sup>5</sup>For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. <sup>6</sup>But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

<sup>7</sup>What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” <sup>8</sup>But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. <sup>9</sup>I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. <sup>10</sup>The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. <sup>11</sup>For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. <sup>12</sup>So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

<sup>13</sup>Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

# THEME FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2011

## THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### The Holy Gospel

### Matthew 10: 34 – 42

(The call to follow Jesus is not an easy one. He is to be our number one priority. Christ encourages His followers to faithful service, even in small acts of love that support the Gospel message and fellow Christians.)

*(Jesus said,)* <sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup>And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

<sup>40</sup>“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. <sup>41</sup>The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. <sup>42</sup>And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

Have a blessed week!