

the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit; people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

27 FEBRUARY 2022

VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST

We often hear it said that actions speak louder than words, and that talk is cheap. While these sayings may well be true, what we say provides others with a window into our hearts. Both the first reading and the Gospel invite us to reflect upon the quality of our speech and what it reveals about where our heart lies. As trees are judged on the quality of their fruit so our hearts are judged on the quality of our speech. Jesus' words forcefully remind us that before we judge others, we would do well to look to ourselves and the quality of the fruit we bear in our actions and in the words we speak.

As Paul concludes his argument about the bodily resurrection, he praises God for the victory that has been won over sin and death. Like other Jews of his time, he understood that sin and death had entered the world through the fall of Adam. When Paul states that sin gets its power from the law, he invites the Corinthians to reflect on the paradox posed by the Jewish law. While the law calls us to righteousness, its very existence is living proof of the power of sin, since the commands of the law would not be necessary if there was no sin. Paul sees the death and resurrection of Jesus as the first fruits of a crop that is yet to come. In the meantime, the community is called to continue to live their Christian lives in the hope that they are not working in vain.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Sir 27: 4-7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 91: 2-3, 13-16. R. cf. v. 2

R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord / to make music to your name, O Most High, / to proclaim your love in the morning / and your truth in the watches of the night. **R.**

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree / and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **R.**

3. Planted in the house of the Lord / they will flourish in the courts of our God, / still bearing sap when they are old, / still full sap, still green, / to proclaim that the Lord is just. / In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 15: 54-58

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is



sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2: 15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 6: 39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciples will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice

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