**20 FEBRUARY – VII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.**

**In the Old Testament, the men of God, always supported and led by the Holy Spirit, not only reveal their brothers that man has an eternal future and that future is in the eternal tent of the Lord, they also showed man the way to reach this tent:** “**Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the Lord; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.” (Psal 15, 1-5) “I will sing of your love and justice; to you, Lord, I will sing praise. I will be careful to lead a blameless life when will you come to me? I will conduct the affairs of my house with a blameless heart. I will not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do; I will have no part in it. The perverse of heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with what is evil. Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate. My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; the one whose walk is blameless will minister to me. No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence. Every morning I will put to silence all the wicked in the land; I will cut off every evildoer from the city of the Lord.” (Psal 101, 1-8) As one may ascertain, the way to reach the eternal life is that of the perfect observance of the Law of the Lord, starting from the Law of Sinai and adding every other requirement or statute or norm given by the Lord to his people.**

**With Jesus, the way of the Old Testament traced by the Holy Spirit is no longer enough. It is strongly inadequate. Today our way is Christ. Not only. One walks in Christ. One goes with Christ and for Christ. One goes in Christ, with Christ and for Christ, dwelling in his Word. Here is how clearly Jesus puts his Word as unique and only way to enter and dwell in the tent of heaven, and we know that the tent of heaven is God and Christ Jesus in the Holy Spirit: “I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt 5, 20)** **"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God). He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (for) the old order has passed away." (Rev 21, 3-4)** “**I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and to it the kings of the earth will bring their treasure. During the day its gates will never be shut, and there will be no night there. The treasure and wealth of the nations will be brought there, but nothing unclean will enter it, nor any (one) who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.” (Rev 21, 22-27) The eternal tent in which we will dwell is God himself and Christ Jesus in the Holy Spirit. The way to dwell in this divine and eternal tent eternally is revealed by Jesus, in the Gospel according to Luke, with these words:**

**Let us read the text of Luke 6, 27-38**

**"But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit (is) that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."**

**If one pays a little attention, one might notice that this Law is the own life of Christ Jesus. Do you wish to dwell in Christ in his divine and eternal tent in heaven? Live today in the tent of his body all its life. You cannot hope to dwell in Him in eternity and live his life, if today you live the death of the world in its darkness. Life of Christ today and life of Christ in eternity. Life in Christ today and life in Christ for eternity. Life with Christ today and life with Him in eternity. May the Mother of God make us life of Christ today to be life of Christ in the blessed eternity.**