

## READINGS FOR February 19th 2023

### Collect

O God,  
before whose face we are not made righteous  
even by being right:  
free us from the need to justify ourselves  
by our own anxious striving,  
that we may be abandoned to faith in you alone;  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### First reading

#### **Leviticus 19:1-2**

1 The LORD said to Moses,

2 “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

### Psalm

#### **Psalm 119:33-40**

33 Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

35 Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.

36 Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.

37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.

38 Fulfil your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared.

39 Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good.

40 How I long for your precepts! In your righteousness preserve my life.

### Second reading

#### **Corinthians 3:10-17**

**10** By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.

**11** For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

**12** If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

**13** their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

**14** If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

**15** If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

**16** Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

**17** If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

## Gospel

### Matthew 5:38-48

**38** “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’

**39** But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

**40** And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.

**41** If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.

**42** Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

**43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

**44** But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

**45** that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

**46** If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

**47** And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

**48** Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.