

Twenty-Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time 2017

The Third Commandment.

Exodus 20:1-17

Remember to keep the Sabbath Day.

Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God. No work may be done then either by you or your slave.

In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, but on the seventh day he rested.

That is why the Lord has blessed the Sabbath Day and made it holy.

Deuteronomy 5: 1-20

Take care to keep holy the Sabbath Day as the Lord, your God, commanded you.

Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God. No work may be done then. Your slave should rest as you do.

For remember that you too were once slaves in Egypt, and the Lord, your God, brought you from there with his strong hand and outstretched arm.

That is why the Lord, your God, has commanded you to observe the Sabbath Day.

We have been studying an important difference that arose with the apostolic tradition of keeping the precepts of the Sabbath Day on the Day of the Lord. We came to discover that Sunday is the fulfillment of the Sabbath Day. Sunday is a day created by God as a day of rest no less than God created the Sabbath Day as a day of rest. Now I would like to consider how we keep the Lord's Day as a holy day. From the commandment above we see the words 'keep holy'. Just after those words we gain some insight into their meaning. We learn that keeping the day holy includes the precepts of no work and of resting. The Book of Exodus, (left side), adds the precept of imitating God who rested on the Sabbath Day and did no work. The Book of Deuteronomy includes the feast of the Passover, a celebration which recalls freedom for the purpose of worship. But, what is work? How do we rest? What does worship mean? These precepts are unclear. We rely upon Church teaching. The Jewish leaders made many interpretations of these precepts. Jesus often found himself in confrontation with their interpretations.