

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord:
consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!*

Luke 12:13-21

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

A simple request, calling on a respected religious leader to intervene in a brotherly squabble over inheritance, gives Jesus the opportunity to address the whole crowd with an important message about greed; warning that one's life does not consist of possessions. Jesus calls on the crowd to make themselves rich "*in the sight of God*".

Help me Lord, to use my time, talents, possessions - to make myself rich in your sight. May I recognise all things as 'your gift', to be used for your glory and for the good of my neighbour.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

31st July 2022

Make Yourselves Rich in the Sight of God



On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches, providing steps enabling us to follow him. In today's Gospel we are urged to consider the End times and that a happy end of life does not depend on the wealth that we have accumulated around us, but that we have grown rich in the sight of God.

Opening Prayer

Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored.

Ecclesiastes 1:2,2:21-23

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity! For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

“Qoheleth, or the Preacher, sometimes identified as King Solomon himself, is an old man at the end of his life, musing, as older people often do, on the emptiness and futility of things... But the more we meditate upon Qoheleth's words, the clearer his message becomes. He is not trying to convince us that life has no meaning; rather, he is urging us to let go of all the attachments to this world that prevent us from surrendering ourselves utterly to God. Pleasure, knowledge, power, and riches are all good things, but they are not God. When we pretend that they are the ultimate values, they in fact turn into dust... Knowing this allows us to place our hope and trust in God alone.”
(Bishop Robert Barron)

Psalm 89(90):3-6,12-14,17

*You turn men back to dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.*

*You sweep men away like a dream, like the grass which springs up in
the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening
it withers and fades.*

*Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants.*

*In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all
our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to
the work of our hands.*

Colossians 3:1-5,9-11

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

In our 2nd Reading we listen to the final excerpt from Colossians. We began our readings four weeks ago with a hymn praising Christ, Risen from the dead. Paul concludes by saying that faith in Christ's Resurrection and the certainty of are own, must change everything about us. We must seek heavenly things, where Christ reigns.

(Gospel overleaf)

Prayer over the Offerings

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you.

Prayer after Communion

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption.