

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY



A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

What do people gain by all their work?

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.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 89:3-6.12-14.17

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn men back into 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.

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

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

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

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 every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

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.

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Second Reading † Colossians 3:1-5.9-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Colossians

Seek the things that are above where Christ is.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † Matthew 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

Gospel † Luke 12:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

To whom will all this wealth of yours go?

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.