

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY



First Reading † Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

What do people gain by all their work?

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth, vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For here is one who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully, and must leave all to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This too is vanity, and a great evil; for what does a person gain for all the toil and strain undergone under the sun – since life is full of sorrow, work is full of stress and even at night there is no peace of mind? 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 people back to dust,
and say, 'Return, O children of Adam.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night.

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

You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it springs up fresh;
by evening it withers and fades.

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

Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O Lord! How long?
Show pity to your servants.

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

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord our God 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

Seek the things that are above where Christ is.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been raised up to be with Christ, you must look for the things that are above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on things above, not on the things that are on earth, because you have died, and the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, then, everything in you that is earthly: sexual vice, impurity, passion, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry; and do not lie to one another. You have stripped off your old personality with its practices, and you have put on a new personality which is being renewed in true knowledge in accordance with the image of its Creator; where there is no Greek and Jew, no circumcised and uncircumcised, no barbarian and Scythian, slave and free, but Christ is all and in all.

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, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † Luke 12:13-21

To whom will all this wealth of yours go?

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A man in the crowd said to Jesus,

‘Teacher, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.’

He said to him,

‘My friend, who appointed me judge or arbitrator over you?’

Then he said to them,

‘Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind,
for life does not consist in abundance of possessions.’

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 someone stores up treasure for himself instead of becoming rich with regard to God.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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