



SUNDAY, JULY 31–AUGUST 6

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 18

Year C, Complementary Series

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹²I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

¹³I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom
all that is done under heaven;

it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with.

¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun,
and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun,
seeing that I must leave it to my successor,

¹⁹and who knows whether my successor will be wise or foolish?

Yet my successor will be master of all for which I toiled
and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.

²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair
concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun,

²¹because sometimes one who has toiled
with wisdom and knowledge and skill
must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it.

This also is vanity and a great evil.

²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain
with which they toil under the sun?

²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation;
even at night their minds do not rest.

This also is vanity.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 49:1-12

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

A reading from Colossians.

¹If you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

²Set your minds on the things that are above,
not on the things that are on earth,

³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed,
then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly:
sexual immorality, impurity, passion,
evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry).

⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.

⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.

⁸But now you must get rid of all such things:
anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth.

⁹Do not lie to one another,
seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices

¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self,
which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.

¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew,
circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free,
but Christ is all and in all!

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to 「Jesus,」
“Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.”
¹⁴But Jesus replied,
“Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?”
¹⁵And Jesus said to them, “Take care!
Be on your guard against all kinds of greed,
for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”
¹⁶Then Jesus told them a parable:
“The land of a rich man produced abundantly.
¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do,
for I have no place to store my crops?’
¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this:
I will pull down my barns and build larger ones,
and there I will store all my grain and my goods.
¹⁹And I will say to my soul,
Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years;
relax, eat, drink, be merry.’
²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool!
This very night your life is being demanded of you.
And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’
²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves
but are not rich toward God.”

The gospel of the Lord.