

Sunday, August 1, 2010
Lectionary 18
Proper 13
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

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

A reading from _____.

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a "vanity of vanities." Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one's work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

Chapter 1

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

¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied 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 human beings 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.

Chapter 2

¹⁸I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹— and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they 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.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 49:1–12

Refrain: My mouth shall speak of wisdom. (Ps. 49:3)

¹Hear this, ¹ all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell ¹ in the world,
²**you of high de- ¹gree and low,
rich and ¹poor together.**
³My mouth shall ¹ speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on ¹ understanding.
⁴**I will incline my ear ¹ to a proverb
and set forth my riddle up- ¹ on the harp. R**
⁵Why should I be afraid in ¹ evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my ¹ heels surrounds me,
⁶**the wickedness of those who trust in ¹ their own prowess,
and boast of ¹ their great riches?**
⁷One can never re- ¹ deem another,
or give to God the ransom for an- ¹ other's life;
⁸**for the ransom of a life ¹ is so great
that there would never be e- ¹ nough to pay it,**
⁹in order to live forev- ¹ er and ever
and never ¹ see the grave.
¹⁰**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- ¹ pid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come ¹ after them.**
¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to ¹ generation,
though they had named lands af- ¹ ter themselves.
¹²**Even though honored, they cannot ¹ live forever;
they are like the ¹ beasts that perish. R**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1–11

A reading from _____.

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes in order to put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

So if 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 things that are above, not on 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: fornication, 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, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13–21

The holy gospel according to _____.
Glory to you, O Lord.

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he 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 he 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.
Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Lead your church, O God, to speak wisdom that it may offer genuine meaning in a world of vanities. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sustain, O God, all who labor and toil in field, factory, home, or office, that their work may have purpose. Give hope to the unemployed, that they can soon offer their talents in fulfilling work. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Inspire, O God, the leaders of all nations to seek justice for the inhabitants of the world. Give a spirit of generosity to those who are wealthy, enabling them to share the abundance of their riches with the poor. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Provide peace, O God, to those whose days are filled with pain: the poor, the hungry, the ill (*especially*), that they may not give up their hearts to despair. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Encourage this congregation, O God, to set our minds on things that are above, so we may be rich toward God and loving toward others. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks, O God, for those who have left us a legacy of faith, wisdom, and knowledge (*especially*). Keep us steadfast in that faith until we join them in glory. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

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