

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—AUGUST 4, 2019

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

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

...^{2:21} because sometimes a man who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by a man who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What has a man from all the toil and strain with which he toils beneath the sun?

²³ *For all his days are full of pain, and his work is a vexation; even in the night his mind does not rest. This also is vanity.*

Responsorial Psalm PS 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 AND 17

R. (1) **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

You turn man back to dust,
saying, "Return, O children of men."
For a thousand years in your sight
are as yesterday, now that it is past,
or as a watch of the night.

R. **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

You make an end of them in their sleep;
the next morning they are like the changing
grass,

Which at dawn springs up anew,
but by evening wilts and fades.

R. **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.

Return, O LORD! How long?

Have pity on your servants!

R. **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,
that we may shout for joy and gladness all our

days.

And may the gracious care of the LORD our God
be ours;

prosper the work of our hands for us!

Prosper the work of our hands!

R. **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Second Reading — Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ... ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel Reading — Luke 12:13-21

¹³ One of the multitude said to him, "Teacher, bid my brother divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or divider over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take heed, and be-ware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'I will

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do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

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INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading —

1. What could make our “toil and strain,” “our days full of pain and work,” not be vanity and a vexation?

Second Reading —

2. There are two general admonitions in this passage, vss 1-4 (seek the things of Christ), and vss 5-11 (put to death carnal desires). What is the relationship between these two actions?

Gospel Reading —

3. Define covetousness.
4. What is the main point of the parable?
5. How does a person become “rich toward God?”

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.