

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

COLLECT

Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

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

Sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are

full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. R 7c, 8a

R O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come into his presence, giving thanks; let us hail him with a song of praise.. **R**

O come; let us bow and bend low. Let us kneel before the Lord who made us, for he is our God, and we the people, the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.. **R**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your forebears put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R**

R O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Brothers and Sisters: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia...

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia...

GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

At that time: Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions.'

And he told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, "What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?"' And he said, "I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods."

And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' "

But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So is the one who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the bread of life, says the Lord; whoever comes to me will not hunger and whoever believes in me will not thirst.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

It is true therefore, that a man's life is not from his possessions, by reason of his having a superfluity: but very blessed, and of glorious hope is he who is rich towards God. And who is he? Evidently one who loves not wealth, but virtue rather, and to whom few things are sufficient: and whose hand is open to the necessities of the indigent, comforting the sorrows of those in poverty, according to his means, and the utmost of his power. It is he who gathers in the storehouses that are above, and lays up treasures in heaven. Such a one shall find the usury of his virtue, and the recompense of his upright and blameless life; Christ shall bless him: by Whom, and with Whom, to God the Father be praise and dominion with the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever, Amen.

Cyril of Alexandria,
Commentary on Luke
(1859) Sermons 89-98.
(Luke 12:13-13:9)
pp.409-459