

SERIES C TEXTS

Lectionary 18

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

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.

^{2:18}I 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.

Psalm 49:1-12

¹ Hear this, all **you** peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world, ² both low and high, rich and poor together. ³ My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. ⁴ I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp. ⁵ Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me, ⁶ those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches? ⁷ Truly, no ransom avails for one's life, there is no price one can give to God for it. ⁸ For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice ⁹ that one should live on forever and never see the grave. ¹⁰ When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together and leave their wealth to others. ¹¹ Their graves are their homes forever, their dwelling places to all generations, though they named lands their own. ¹² Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.

Colossians 3:1-11

¹So 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

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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!

Luke 12:13-21

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.”