

COLLECT

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good
things:
graft in our hearts the love of your
name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in
the same;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

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

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, 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 human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. 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 – 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. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labours under the sun, because 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. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For 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.

Or Hosea 11:1-11

PSALM Psalm 49:1-12

R My mouth, O Lord, shall speak of wisdom.

Hear this, all you peoples;
hearken, all you who dwell in the world,

you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.
My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding. **R**

I will incline my ear to a proverb
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.
Why should I be afraid in evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my
heels surrounds me,
The wickedness of those
who put their trust in their goods,
and boast of their great riches? **R**

We can never ransom ourselves,
or deliver to God the price of our life;
For the ransom of our life is so great,
that we should never have enough
to pay it,
In order to live for ever and ever,
and never see the grave. **R**

For we see that the wise die also;
like the dull and stupid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who
come after them.
Their graves shall be their homes for
ever,
their dwelling places from generation
to generation,
though they call the lands after their
own names. **R**

Even though honoured, they cannot
live for ever;
they are like the beasts that perish.
Such is the way of those
who foolishly trust in themselves,
and the end of those who delight in
their own words. **R**

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

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 is revealed,
then you also will be revealed with
him in glory. Put to death, therefore,
whatever in you is earthly: fornication,
impurity, passion, evil desire, and
greed (which is idolatry). On account of
these the wrath of God is coming on
those who are disobedient. These are
the ways you also once followed, when

you were living that life. But now you
must get rid of all such things – anger,
wrath, malice, slander, and abusive
language from your mouth. Do not
lie to one another, seeing that you
have stripped off the old self with its
practices and have clothed yourselves
with the new self, which is being
renewed in knowledge according
to the image of its creator. In that
renewal there is no longer Greek and
Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised,
barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but
Christ is all and in all!

GOSPEL Luke 12:13-21

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus,
"Teacher, tell my brother to divide
the family inheritance with me." But
he said to him, "Friend, who set me
to be a judge or arbitrator over you?"
And he said to the crowd, "Take care!
Be on your guard against all kinds of
greed; for one's life does not consist
in the abundance of possessions."
Then he told them a parable: "The
land of a rich man produced
abundantly. And he thought to
himself, 'What should I do, for I have
no place to store my crops?' Then 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.
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, 'You fool! This very
night your life is being demanded
of you. And the things you have
prepared, whose will they be?' So it is
with those who store up treasures for
themselves but are not rich towards
God."

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine
and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may
live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup, we may share
his glory and be made perfect in his
love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.