

July 31, 2022
HYMNS FOR 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
LBW # 358 “Glories of Your Name are Spoken”
LBW #408 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”
LBW #415 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

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.

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: Psalm 138

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

¹Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

²**you of high degree and low,
rich and poor together.**

³My mouth shall speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

⁴**I will incline my ear to a proverb
and set forth my riddle upon the harp. R**

⁵Why should I be afraid in evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

⁶**the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own
prowess, and boast of their great riches?**

⁷One can never redeem another,
or give to God the ransom for another's life;

⁸**for the ransom of a life is so great
that there would never be enough to pay it,**

⁹in order to live forever and ever
and never see the grave.

¹⁰**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.**

¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from
generation to generation,
though they had named lands after themselves.

¹²**Even though honored, they cannot live forever;
they are like the beasts that perish. R**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and 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.

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).⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth.⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.¹¹ 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

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 [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?"¹⁵ And 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."¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly.¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?'"¹⁸ 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.'¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'²⁰ 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?'"²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

A O God, you are wholeness. Where there is division in your church, bring reconciliation and healing. Guide the work of theologians, Sunday school teachers, seminary professors, and all who provide instruction for the building up of your church. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A O God, you are the source of all life. Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal. Bless farmers, ranchers, distributors,

and all who provide our food. Nourish the land and all its habitants.
Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A O God, you are wisdom. Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice. Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others, especially military personnel, police, first responders, and activists, and for the healing of the nations. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A O God, you are life. Where your people are overwhelmed with the busy-ness of life, bring encouragement. Accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress (*especially*). Renew us at your table of mercy. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A O God, you are our treasure. Where scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, bring abundance and vitality. Guide the work of church councils and committees and give them clarity for the work of ministry in this place (*specific ministries may be named*). Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A O God, you are resurrection. We give you thanks for all your saints (*especially*). Inspire us by their example of faithful living to set our minds on things above and to be rich in love toward you. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

C Amen.

