

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.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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

Ecc1 1:2 2:21-23

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

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

For so it is that a man who has laboured
wisely, skillfully and successfully must leave
what is his own to someone who has not
toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great
injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil
and strain that he has undergone under the
sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares
of office, his restless nights? This, too, is
vanity.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 89

Response:

**O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to the next.**

1. You turn men back into dust
and say: "Go back, sons of men."
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. (R.)

2. You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the
morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. (R.)

3. Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. (R.)

4. In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-5,9-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Colossians.

Since you have been brought back to true
life with Christ, you must look for the things
that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at
God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on
heavenly things, not on the things that are on
the earth, because you have died, and now
the life you have is hidden with Christ in God.
But when Christ is revealed – and he is your
life – you too will be revealed in all your glory
with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you
that belongs only to earthly life: fornication,
impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and
especially greed, which is the same thing as
worshipping a false god; and never tell each
other lies. You have stripped off your old
behaviour with your old self, and you have
put on a new self which will progress towards
true knowledge the more it is renewed in
the image of its creator; and in that image
there is no room for distinction between
Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or
the uncircumcised, or between barbarian
and Scythian, slave and free man. There
is only Christ: he is everything and he is in
everything.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, "Master,
tell my brother to give me a share of our
inheritance." "My friend," he replied "who
appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of
your claims?" Then he said to them, "Watch,
and be on your guard against avarice of any
kind, for a man's life is not made secure by
what he owns, even when he has more than
he needs."

Then he told them a parable: "There was
once a rich man who, having had a good
harvest from his land, thought to himself,
'What am I to do? I have not enough room to
store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what
I will do: I will pull down my barns and build
bigger ones, and store all my grain and my
goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My
soul, you have plenty of good things laid by
for many years to come; take things easy,
eat, drink, have a good time.' But God said
to him, 'Fool! This very night the demand
will be made for your soul; and this hoard of
yours, whose will it be then?' So it is when a
man stores up treasure for himself in place of
making himself rich in the sight of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

You have given us, O Lord, bread from
heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in
every taste.

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.



THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

(LK 12: 13-21)

This is the year of Luke's Gospel and you may have noticed over the past number of weeks the amount of times Jesus is questioned by an inquisitive crowd of followers. He takes on the role of rabbi or teacher today and is asked about the apportioning of inheritance between two brothers.

The law of the time dictated that the eldest son must receive twice as much as each of the other children upon the death of their father. However, there seems to be a dispute today in which Jesus is asked to comment. Cleverly he side steps the issue and focuses on the heart of the problem, which is our attachment to money, possessions and wealth. Note a parallel theme in today's first reading from Ecclesiastes where the opening line is, "Vanity of vanity, all is vanity." In some Bible translations this sentence reads, "All is meaningless." The book of Ecclesiastes is renowned for its negative downbeat tone and has quite a pessimistic view on life. The writer is a man who has seen it all and today's question is quite profound in many ways. What's the point in toiling all your life to amass possessions and wealth when you're just going to leave it all behind anyway? So Jesus uses the parable of the rich landowner who builds bigger barns to store his vast quantities of grain. When all the produce is gathered, the landowner plans a little retirement where he will eat, drink and take life easy. God speaks to the landowner and calls him a fool. On this very night the man will die and who will own his property then? Through this parable, Jesus mocks the man who relies on possessions to make him happy. ■

SAY

"He is generous even to exhaustion; and what is most wonderful is, that He gives Himself thus entirely, not once only, but every day, if we wish it. Every fresh Communion is a new gift which Jesus Christ makes of Himself."

(St. Ignatius Loyola)

LEARN

"It is the joyful simplicity of life inspired by the Gospel and the Gospel's spirit of fraternal sharing that you will find the best remedy for the temptation to make money the principle means and indeed the very measure of human advancement." (Pope John Paul II)

DO

The next time you attend Mass, concentrate more fully on the Word of God (first reading, psalm, second reading and Gospel). Allow the words to affect you and take one message home with you, something that will help you in your relationship with God.



REFLECT

Recently, a couple from the North of Ireland won a substantial amount of money in the EuroMillions lottery and before TV cameras and reporters from around the world, they explained how their lives would certainly change dramatically but ultimately, their needs were few. For some moments, I put myself into their shoes and wondered what it would be like to have over £100

million in my bank account. Perhaps we all do the same from time to time. We like to dream big about the possible car or house or holidays we would have if we won the lotto. Some would say that it's even natural to think in this way because most of our lives are driven by our need to earn money, to buy food and the things that make us and our families comfortable. Keeping this in mind, you might disagree with the strategy of Jesus in calling today's landowner a fool.

These are strong words and for anyone who is wealthy or lives a comfortable life, the Gospel of today is not criticising you for what you have. What Jesus is calling into question is a consumerist mentality where the only focus for people is money and possessions. Jesus points to the people who think there is security in possessions. For Jesus, true wealth, security and happiness is to be found in our relationship with God. ■