

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Lectionary 18, Year C

Prayer of the Day

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.**

Amen.

Semicontinuous First Reading: Hosea 11:1-11

Hosea compares God's love for Israel to the love parents have for their children. Whether teaching toddlers to walk or dealing with a child's rebellion, good parents continue to love their children as they try to lead them to life. In the same way, God's love will not let Israel go.

¹ When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ² The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and offering incense to idols. ³ Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up in my arms, but they did not know that I healed them. ⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. ⁵ They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. ⁶ The sword rages in their cities; it consumes their oracle priests and devours because of their schemes. ⁷ My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all.

⁸ How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

⁹ I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim, for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. ¹⁰ They shall go after the Lord, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. ¹¹ They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt and like doves from the land of Assyria, and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

Psalm 49:1-12

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

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

² **you of high de- | gree and low,
rich and | poor together.**

³ My 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 up- | on the harp. R**

⁵ Why 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?**

⁷ One can never re- | deem another,
or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life;

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

⁹ in order to live forev- | er and ever
and never | see the grave.

¹⁰ **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- | pid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come | after them.**

¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to | generation,
though they had named lands af- | ter 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.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, 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 practices ¹⁰ 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, enslaved 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.

¹³ Someone 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."