

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 5:3
Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 12:13-21
A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

To whom will all this wealth of yours go?
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.**

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Breaking Open the Word

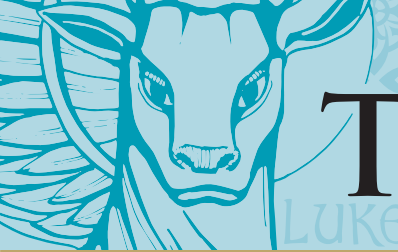
WHAT IS TRULY IMPORTANT

Unfortunately, arguments do sometimes
happen within families on the death of a
family member. These often revolve around
property, ownership and how the Will is
divided. Family disputes are not unknown.
The same occurred in Luke’s day.

Today’s Gospel begins with the dispute
between two brothers over an inheritance
claim. One of them wants Jesus to arbitrate.
But Jesus moves the issue to the deeper level
of encounter. He names it as greed. The
wisdom that emerges is that human security
is never guaranteed by property ownership or
possessions. This is a familiar theme in Luke’s
Gospel. It is an issue among those whom Luke
addresses. Reading behind the lines of today’s
Gospel, the evangelist responds to concerns
about wealth, greed, inheritance disputes and
inner tensions.

The second part of the Gospel explores these
issues further: A farmer decides to build bigger
barns to store his harvest. But what he has
forgotten is that he is not the one responsible
for the bumper harvest. It is the earth. In
his avariciousness he has lost his ecological
connectedness. Greed blurs his spiritual vision
and sensitivity to God’s earth. The farmer
seeks rather a life of ease and comfort. The
evangelist reminds the Gospel’s audience to
keep things in perspective. The disciple’s real
focus is on one’s soul and relationship with
God. Today’s Gospel is a sobering reminder of
what is truly important.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

3 AUGUST 2025

FIRST READING Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23
A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes
What do people gain by all their work?

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

For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely,
skilfully 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.**

RESP PSALM Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 1
**R. In every age, O Lord, you have been
our refuge.**

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 Col 3:1-5,9-11
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Colossians

Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.
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.**