

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 12:13-21

The obvious sin of the man in the parable of Jesus is not as obvious as we might think. One of the advantages of working at the same firm for a number of years is the retirement benefit it affords. We have bank accounts and investments, even life insurance which makes us very much like the rich man of the parable. The problem is not so much the man's greed (both the man in the crowd asking Jesus to divide the property and the man in the parable) but the attachment to worldly stuff which distracts from God, his neighbor and his life. Our stuff distracts us from the true gift and blessing we receive from Jesus. Being "rich toward God" is necessarily a statement of our faith. Where our faith is, there will be our life. "Lay up treasure" in God.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑨ O God, our God, by Your Spirit all things are ordered in Your kingdom, so that if it should be done, it is done. Mercifully hear our prayer, and to that end, pour out Your Holy Spirit on us; that we may draw from Him and speak the words that need to be spoken, call on You for those in need and especially that our words of praise will be worthy of Your hearing.

Grant through Your Holy Spirit that Your Word would come to Your church. We ask that Your people would hear Your Word from Christ-like teachers. Give us all the ears of faith to turn to You in the fullness of love and trust. Enlighten us that we may know Your will. Build up in us the willingness to repent of our transgressions and iniquities and order our ways by obedience to Your commands.

By Your Holy Spirit, give all such spiritual gifts as are necessary to the witness and work of Your church, so that there may always be abundant wisdom and knowledge, faith and health, prophecy and miracles, judgment and light. Promote the knowledge of You, so that it will go forth, and allow people of every nation, kindred, tribe, or realm to learn of Your glory.

May the Words of our Lord Jesus be taught daily in all homes, that both parents and children may grow in grace through the knowledge of He who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Give Your blessing to all useful labor in industry and agriculture, education and science, the professions and the arts, that in their advancement Your people may be prospered.

Hear the cry and look in mercy on the sick and the hurt, those who sorrow or mourn, the handicapped and the infirm. Let the healthful powers of Your Love come to them, so they may turn to You in praise and thanksgiving.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

These and all our other petitions, intercessions, and thanksgivings, we ask you to hear, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

© Amen.

PROPER THIRTEEN

Chant Tone



Introit

Hear this, all — peoples! *
Give ear, all inhabitants | of the world,
Both | low and high,*
rich and poor — together!

Truly no man can ransom a — nother,*
or give to God the price | of his life,
For the ransom of their life is — costly*
and can ne | ver suffice,
This is the path of those who have
foolish | confidence,*
yet after them people approve | of
their boasts.

Like sheep they are appointed | for Sheol; *
Death shall be their — shepherd,
But God will ransom my soul from the
power | of Sheol,*
for He will re — ceive me.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

Hear this, all — peoples! *
Give ear, all inhabitants | of the world,
both | low and high,*
rich and poor — together!

(Antiphon, Psalm 49:1-2;
Psalm 49:7-8, 13-14a, 15)

Collect of the Day

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in Heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach | the good news,*
who publish peace and bring good news of sal — vation.
Their voice has gone out to | all the Earth,*
and their words to the ends | of the world.

(Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b, alternative)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, heavenly Father, source of all our supply, Creator and Sustainer of our life, accept the praise of our lips and the gratitude of our hearts. Your mercies are new every morning, and Your kindness watches over us every night. You send us our daily bread and have given us the Bread of life in Your Son Jesus Christ. For these constant evidences of Your Love we praise Your most Holy name. Strengthen our faith in Jesus, Whom You have sent, and help us proclaim Him to the world as the Bread of life. O Lord, heal the sick, grant assurance to the hopeless, be the companion of the lonely and hear our prayers. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

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THEME OF THE DAY:

Rich In The Knowledge of God

INTROIT—(Antiphon, Psalm 49:1-2;) Psalm 49:7-8, 13-14a, 15
Most of the Psalms are prayers. Psalm 49 is a sermon, it is a statement of doctrine. This Psalm is ascribed to the sons of Korah, so it was written for worship by the men in charge of worship at the time of David and Solomon.) The author was connecting this Psalm to the uttering of Solomon in Ecclesiastes (our OT Lesson.) In speaking to "rich and poor alike," the author is telling us that there is nothing better than seeking the things of Heaven. There is nothing on this Earth that has any value outside of being raised from the dead to eternal life in Heaven.

COLLECT

(The historic Collect didn't fit with the historic lessons. It was changed to represent the theme of the day.) We ask God for the necessary wisdom to recognize that our treasure is in Heaven. Nothing on Earth is equal to the wonder of Heaven. (Wisdom in the Bible is defined as saving knowledge of God.) We recognize the "riches" of the grace of God (His undeserved love) after we received the wisdom we received from Him through the work and person of Jesus, given to us in our Baptism.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26

Robert Rosin said, "There is a life to be lived. It is fleeting, confusing, and impossible for people to organize and control, but life is not a fiction. Because there is something there, we must go on." Solomon was trying to tell us that what our flesh thinks is life, is actually emptiness. The only point of life is the wonder of the knowledge of God. The knowledge of God is the treasure of life. Once we have that wisdom/knowledge then our life is a joy (even if it isn't a joy by the understanding of our flesh.)

GRADUAL—Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b alternative

Paul quoted Isaiah but, Paul interpreted as he was quoting so the Words aren't always exact. We used three pieces make our Gradual; his quote, the actual quote, and a bit of our own interpretation to make the Words flow together. Those who speak the Gospel are beautiful people.

EPISTLE LESSON—Colossians 3:1-11

The first line of Colossians 3 is the whole answer to every question that can be asked. We have been raised with Christ, our treasure is in Heaven and not here on Earth. Nothing that happens here on Earth has any meaning apart from the wonder of the glory of God. The words of our flesh are dead. They are dead to God and they prevent us from recognizing the fullness of God in our life. Putting away the dead things of our flesh brings forth our new self. The is the redeemed (changed) self, that has true life in the knowledge of God.