

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, HANOVER, PA
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8TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST, JULY 31, 2022

Prayer of the Day

Leader: 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.

Cong.: Amen.

The First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

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.

The Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

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). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

The Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And 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.” ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸Then 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. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But 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?’ ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

Prayers of the People

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their need.

(A brief silence.)

Leader: O God, fill the body of Christ with energy and strength. Help us to work in partnerships across all barriers to faith, that the Gospel of Christ may be shared with all people. Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Guard your creation against greed and criminal-consumption. Teach us to be your faithful stewards of this world, and show us your will and ways to do so. Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Break down walls of contempt between neighbors, and nations. Equip for your purposes church and community leaders, legislators, volunteers, peacemakers, and all who seek what is good in the world. Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Grant your peace and compassion to caregivers, especially those who sit at bedsides or wait by the phone. Comfort all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit, especially all those we lift before you now in the earnest prayers of our hearts.

(P A U S E) Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Inspire all in this congregation to live lives of faith, knowing you are present, O God, and with eyes toward the future and trust in you. In councils, committee meetings, classrooms, and all of our ministries, make us steadfast to follow where you are leading. Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Leader: We give thanks for the salvation you have prepared for all your saints down through the ages, and especially we rejoice in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Cong.: Amen.