

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Reading 1

Citation: Ecclesiastes, Chap. 1, Verse 2; Chap. 2, Verses 21-23
Ecclesiastes: 1:2, 2:21-23

The speaker really doesn't understand what is going on and is very frustrated! Can you show this in your voice. Take your time. Let the feeling of impending despair grow.

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

Vanity of vanities, (somewhat quietly)
says Qoheleth, (almost parenthetical)
vanity of vanities! (louder, admonishing?) (very short pause)
All things are vanity! (discouraged) (short pause)

Here is one who has labored with wisdom and knowledge
and skill, (voice up; asserting)
and yet to another (beginning disbelief)
who has not labored over it, (more disbelief)
he must leave property. (“I don’t get it!” attitude) (short pause)
This also is vanity (“I told you so!”)
and a great misfortune. (almost despair) (short pause)

For what profit comes to man (a l-o-n-g sentence)
from all the toil and anxiety of heart
with which he has labored under the sun? (“Everything seems so pointless!) (short pause)

All his days (regret in your voice)
sorrow and grief is his occupation; (very short pause)
even at night (almost disbelief!)
his mind is not at rest. (voice goes down; again regret)

This also (slowly)
is vanity. (final; firm conviction)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

Citation: Colossians, Chap. 3, Verses 1-5, 9-11
Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11

This reading is well placed following the first reading. But Paul is far from despairing! He is upbeat about Jesus' "Good News." There is a caution, though, as he realizes that at least some of the community are having a difficult time staying focused on the goal – eternal life. He angrily reminds the community to remember that they are a "new creation." Be the patient but persevering teacher Paul really is.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters: (appealing for attention)

If you were raised with Christ,
seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (voice volume goes up on "above")
(parenthetical?) (short pause)

Think of what is above,
not of what is on earth. (short pause)

For you have died,
and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (very short pause)

When Christ your life appears,
then
you too
will appear with him
in glory. (convinced!) (short pause)

Put to death, then,
the parts of you that are earthly:
immorality, impurity,
passion, (very short pause)
evil desire, [a LIST] (take your time)

and the greed that is idolatry. (very short pause)

Stop lying to one another, (almost angry?) (very short pause)

since you have taken off the old self
with its practices (almost parenthetical)

and have put on the new self,
which is being renewed, (almost parenthetical)

for knowledge,
in the image of its creator. (short pause)

Here there is not Greek and Jew,
circumcision and uncircumcision,
barbarian, (speed up a bit from here)

Proclaim the Word!

Proclamation Format

Scythian,
slave, free;
but Christ is all
and in all.

(slow down) (very short pause)
(emphasize each word)
(emphasize each word)

The word of the Lord.

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

GOSPEL

Citation: Luke, Chap. 12, Verses 13-21
Luke 12: 13-21

Jesus is warning his listeners and followers of the folly to be found in putting self and worldly things ahead of one's relationship with God. This is a story form of passage. Enter into it sincerely and convincingly. Express all of the emotion in the story to make it even more effective. Be convinced!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus,

"Teacher,
tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." (very short pause)

He replied to him,
"Friend, (gentle)
who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?" (firm questioning)

Then he said to the crowd,
"Take care to guard against all greed,
for though one may be rich, (two stresses)
one's life does not consist of possessions." (very short pause)

Then he told them a parable.
"There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. (something marvelous)
He asked himself,
'What shall I do, (quiet, questioning tone)
for I do not have space to store my harvest?' (very short pause)

And he said,
'This is what I shall do: (pleased with himself)
I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones.
There I shall store all my grain and other goods (self-satisfied)
and I shall say to myself,
'Now as for you,
you have so many good things stored up for many years,
rest, eat, drink, be merry!' " (each word separately; increasing satisfaction with self)

But God said to him,
'You fool, (God is angry)
this night your life will be demanded of you;
and the things you have prepared, "
to whom will they belong?' (voice goes sharply up)
(disdain) (very short pause)

Thus will it be (warning tone)
for all who store up treasure for themselves
but are not rich in what matters to God." (warning tone; voice goes down)

The Gospel of the Lord

Proclaim the Word!