The Holy Spirit draws us here today to listen to God’s living word, to receive the Lord in the Eucharist, and to give praise and thanks to God. During the week, many of us work hard to make our lives comfortable, aiming for a promotion or raise, earning enough to afford the nicest things, putting money away for an easy retirement. Today’s readings will give us the bit of shock we need to put those parts of our life in perspective. “Vanity of vanities!” cries the first reading’s narrator, ridiculing the idea that we have total control over the rest of our lives. May we reorient ourselves toward what really matters.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

**Profession of Faith p. 104**
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Introductory Rite:**
**Greeting:**
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God forever. Blessed be God forever.

**Penitential Rite:** p.6
My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

**Opening Prayer:**
Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Liturgy of the Word:**
**First Reading p. 100**
A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth, vanity of vanities! All things are vanity! Here is one who has labored with wisdom...
and knowledge and skill, and yet to another who has not labored over it, he must leave property. This also is vanity and a great misfortune. For what profit comes to man from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which he has labored under the sun? All his days sorrow and grief are his occupation; even at night his mind is not at rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17

R/. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.  
R/. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

You turn man back to dust, saying, “Return, O children of men.”

For a thousand years in your sight are as yesterday, now that it is past, or as a watch of the night. R/.

You make an end of them in their sleep; the next morning they are like the changing grass, Which at dawn springs up anew, but by evening wilts and fades. R/.

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.

Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! R/.

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.

And may the gracious care of the LORD our God be ours; prosper the work of our hands for us! Prosper the work of our hands! R/.

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Brothers and sisters: If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory. Put to death, then, the parts of you that are earthly: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all and in all.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

Glory to you, O Lord

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.” He replied to him, “Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?” Then he said to the crowd, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.” Then he told them a parable. “There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, ‘What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?’ And he said, ‘This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods 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!”’ But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?’ Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Reflection on the Word:

• Today’s parable about storing large amounts of grain for the future recalls the story of Joseph and the pharaoh in ancient Egypt (Genesis 41). Where Joseph is praised for his wisdom to store up grain for the seven lean years to come, today’s rich man is criticized for what sounds like the same thing. How come? The fundamental difference is in the purpose of these people’s actions. Joseph, interpreting Pharaoh’s dream, advised the entire country to store grain during years of plenty so that people all over the country, and indeed the wider region, from the wealthy to the penniless, would not starve during the years of famine. The greedy rich man, however, only stored his harvest so that he himself could live off of it for years, so he could do nothing but “rest, eat, drink, and be merry!” (Luke 12:19). Joseph saved hundreds of thousands of people with the stored grain across the country. The rich fool only wanted to save himself. And he failed.

• We try to control our life in every way. We take care of our bodies to ensure our good health. We take care of our possessions to enjoy our success. We take care of our assets so that we can afford a house, or our children’s education, or our retirement. We tend to labor under the illusion that we can control our future. Financial success reinforces that illusion. What we hoard can be lost in a heartbeat. What we give away will go on.

• In a consumer-oriented society such as ours, the lesson from today’s readings is countercultural. We are challenged to reject the idea that money brings happiness or at least makes it easier to achieve. We are encouraged to build wealth instead in what matters to God. As Paul says, “seek what is above” (Colossians 3:1).

Question of the Week
Where do I find my wealth? How do I regard and handle my material wealth?

Prayer of the Faithful:
Today’s readings inspire us to seek what matters to God, replacing greed with generosity. With generous hearts, we pray now for the needs of all our sisters and brothers.

• For the Church, that we may be a model of generosity, freely giving of our abundance to all those in need, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• That leaders of wealthy countries may be inspired to share their country’s resources with countries whose people suffer in poverty, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For those in our own nation who are homeless, hungry, or poor, that they may be blessed by those with excess when they realize that one’s life does not consist of possessions, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For an end to gun violence across the nation and in our communities, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• That our parish community may work to feed those who are hungry, house those who are homeless, and give to those who are poor, here at home and around the world, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

• For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

God of all, you taught us how to be generous in giving us all that you created and giving us your only Son to save us from our sins. Grant us the grace to see all our possessions as gifts from you to be shared and enjoyed by all your children. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Communion Rite

The Lord’s Prayer: p. 136
Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:
The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ’s presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:
Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. Amen.

Prayer after Communion:
Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Rite:
Final Blessing:
May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ! Thanks be to God.