

FIRST READING

Seek the things that are above where Christ is.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

3:1-4

Brothers and sisters:

You have been raised to life with Christ.

Now set your heart on what is in heaven,
where Christ rules at God's right side.

Think about what is up there,
not about what is here on earth.

You died, which means that your life is hidden with Christ,
who sits beside God.

Christ gives meaning to your life,
and when he appears,
you will also appear with him in glory.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

147:1, 3-4, 5 and 7

R. (Is. 30:18) Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

Shout praises to the Lord!
Our God is kind,
and it is right and good
to sing praises to him.

R. Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

He renews our hopes
and heals our bodies.
He decided how many stars
there would be in the sky
and gave each one a name.

R. Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord..

Our Lord is great and powerful!

He understands everything.
Celebrate and sing!
Play your harps
for the Lord our God.

R. Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Matthew 5:3

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

To whom will all this wealth of yours go?

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

12:16-21

Jesus told the crowd this story:

“A rich man’s farm produced a big crop,
and he said to himself, ‘What can I do?
I don’t have a place large enough to store everything.’

“Later, he said, ‘Now I know what I’ll do.
I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones,
where I can store all my grain and other goods.
Then I’ll say to myself,
“You have stored up enough good things to last for years to come.
Live it up! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.” ‘

“But God said to him, ‘You fool!
Tonight you will die.
Then who will get what you have stored up?’

“This is what happens to people who store up everything for themselves,
but are poor in the sight of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.



**Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C**

Prayer:
Dear Jesus,
Thank you for loving us so much. We are happy to have you in our lives. Please help us to live like you!
In your name we pray.
Amen

Readings:
Colossians 3:1-4
Psalm 147:1,3-4, 5 and 7
Luke 12:16-21

Reflection:
Knowing God means living our lives differently. Since we know how much God loves us and everyone else in the world we have to make choices that honor that love God has for us. We can't just store it away like the man in the Gospel. We have to use that love to show others how much God loves them too. The last couple of weeks we have heard stories about people making choices. The Good Samaritan story told about several men who decided to either help an injured man or to leave him. The story of Martha and Mary with Jesus showed a choice the women had to either do their jobs or to hang out with Jesus listening to him. These stories show us how hard it can be sometimes to make decisions and to act how God would like us to. But how can we do any differently?

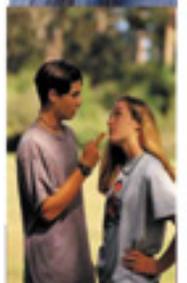
Discussion:

- How do you know that God loves you?
- How do you think God wants us to act?
- What are some things we can do to show how much we love God?

Activity: Heads or Tails Game
Materials: No materials are mandatory. Optional materials could be pictures of various actions and/or prizes for whoever wins the game.

Game: Have the entire class stand. Tell them you will be reading various actions. They need to decide if those actions are Godly (living our lives with God) or Worldly (living our lives without God). If they think it is Godly, they need to put their hands on their head. If they think it is Worldly they put their hands on their bottoms. Briefly discuss the correct answer. If they chose the correct answer they remain standing. If they did not, they sit down. The winner is the last one standing.

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Explain that some Worldly actions are not necessarily bad but that Godly actions are better. Also, Godly actions are not necessarily less fun! Below is a list of some actions you can use. Mix them up. Feel free to create some of your own.

- Littering
- Recycling
- Playing video games while your parents clean the house
- Helping your neighbor rake leaves.
- Yelling at your sister.
- Coloring with your little brother.
- Sleeping in on Sunday morning.
- Going to Church
- Lying around all day.
- Exercising and/or playing sports.
- Disobeying your parents
- Doing what is expected before being asked.
- Playing on the playground with only your friends
- Playing on the playground with your friends and inviting someone who doesn't have many friends to join you
- Bullying