

Collect and Lessons for the 18th Sunday after Trinity  
October 3, 2021

*The Collect*

LORD, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Old Testament Lesson*

The Old Testament Lesson is written in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of the Book of Ecclesiastes beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse:

I thought in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. <sup>2</sup> "Laughter," I said, "is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?"

<sup>3</sup> I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly-- my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.

<sup>4</sup> I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. <sup>5</sup> I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. <sup>6</sup> I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees.

<sup>7</sup> I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. <sup>8</sup> I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces.

I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well-- the delights of the heart of man. <sup>9</sup> I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

<sup>10</sup> I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. <sup>11</sup> Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun. Here endeth the Old Testament Lesson.

Psalm 49. *Audite haec, omnes.*

We will read Psalm 49 responsively by the whole verse:

1 O Hear ye this, all ye people; \* ponder it with your ears, all ye that dwell in the world;

**2 High and low, rich and poor, \* one with another.**

3 My mouth shall speak of wisdom, \* and my heart shall muse of understanding.

**4 I will incline mine ear to the parable, \* and show my dark speech upon the harp.**

5 Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, \* when wickedness at my heels compasseth me round about?

**6 There be some that put their trust in their goods, \* and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches.**

7 But no man may deliver his brother, \* nor give a ransom unto God for him,

**8 For it cost more to redeem their souls, \* so that he must let that alone for ever;**

9 That he shall live alway, \* and not see the grave.

**10 For he seeth that wise men also die and perish together, \* as well as the ignorant and foolish, and leave their riches for other.**

Glory be the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end,  
Amen**

*The New Testament Lesson*

The New Testament Lesson is written in the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians beginning at the 4<sup>th</sup> verse:

<sup>4</sup> I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> For in him you have been enriched in every way-- in all your speaking and in all your knowledge-- <sup>6</sup> because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup> He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. Here endeth the New Testament Lesson.

## The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel is written in the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Matthew beginning at the 24<sup>th</sup> verse: **Glory be to thee, O Lord**

Jesus said, <sup>24</sup> No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. <sup>25</sup> Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

<sup>26</sup> Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

<sup>27</sup> Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

<sup>28</sup> And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: <sup>29</sup> And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

<sup>30</sup> Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

<sup>31</sup> Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? <sup>32</sup> (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise be to thee, O Christ**