**Saturday, August 2 & Sunday, August 3, 2025**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. **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. Amen.**

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

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
    vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied 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 humans to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because 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. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 49:1-12** (read responsively)

**1**Hear this, all you peoples;  
    give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

**2both low and high,  
    rich and poor together.**

**3**My mouth shall speak wisdom;  
    the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

**4I will incline my ear to a proverb;  
    I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.**

**5**Why should I fear in times of trouble,  
    when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,

**6those who trust in their wealth  
    and boast of the abundance of their riches?**

**7**Truly, no ransom avails for one’s life;  
    there is no price one can give to God for it.

**8 For the ransom of life is costly  
    and can never suffice,**

**9**that one should live on forever  
    and never see the Pit.

**10When we look at the wise, they die;  
    fool and dolt perish together  
    and leave their wealth to others.**

**11**Their graves are their homes forever,  
    their dwelling places to all generations,  
    though they named lands their own.

**12Mortals cannot abide in their pomp;  
    they are like the animals that perish.**

**Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11**

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: Luke 12:13-21**

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

**8/2 & 8/3 Prayers of Intercession**

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet.

God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear (*especially*…*and all other people or concerns we now name aloud on our lips or in the silence of our hearts*). Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**