

## 31 July 2022: The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

### First Reading

#### **A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23)**

<sup>2</sup> "Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless!"

<sup>12</sup> I, the Teacher, was king of Israel, and I lived in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I devoted myself to search for understanding and to explore by wisdom everything being done under heaven. I soon discovered that God has dealt a tragic existence to the human race. <sup>14</sup> I observed everything going on under the sun, and really, it is all meaningless—like chasing the wind.

<sup>18</sup> I came to hate all my hard work here on earth, for I must leave to others everything I have earned. <sup>19</sup> And who can tell whether my successors will be wise or foolish? Yet they will control everything I have gained by my skill and hard work under the sun. How meaningless! <sup>20</sup> So I gave up in despair, questioning the value of all my hard work in this world.

<sup>21</sup> Some people work wisely with knowledge and skill, then must leave the fruit of their efforts to someone who hasn't worked for it. This, too, is meaningless, a great tragedy. <sup>22</sup> So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? <sup>23</sup> Their days of labour are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.

This is the word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

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Second Reading

**A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians (3:1-11)**

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God's right hand. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

<sup>5</sup> So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. <sup>6</sup> Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. <sup>8</sup> But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behaviour, slander, and dirty language. <sup>9</sup> Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. <sup>10</sup> Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. <sup>11</sup> In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

This is the word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**