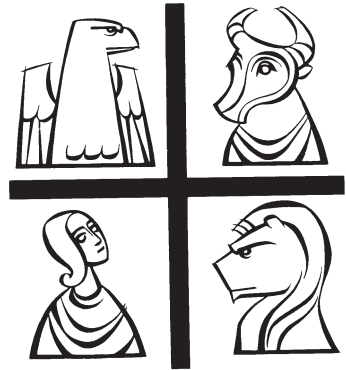


Reading Luke in Lent

Gospel of Luke 12:22-48



Do Not Be Anxious

22 And he said to his disciples,
‘Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you
will eat,
nor about your body, what you will put on.
23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.
24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn,
and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!
25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?
26 If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?
27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you,
even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
28 But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today,
and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you,
O you of little faith!
29 And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried.
30 For all the nations of the world seek after these things,
and your Father knows that you need them.
31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.
32 ‘Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy.
Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old,
with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail,
where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.
34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

You Must Be Ready

35 ‘Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,
36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast,
so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.
37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes.
Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table,
and he will come and serve them.
38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake,
blessed are those servants!
39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming,
he would not have left his house to be broken into.
40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’
41 Peter said,
‘Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?’
42 And the Lord said,
‘Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household,
to give them their portion of food at the proper time?’

⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.
⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.
⁴⁵ But if that servant says to himself,
“My master is delayed in coming,” and begins to beat the male and female servants,
and to eat and drink and get drunk,
⁴⁶ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him
and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.
⁴⁷ And that servant who knew his master’s will but did not get ready or act according to his will,
will receive a severe beating.
⁴⁸ But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating.
Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required,
and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

Reflection

Jesus’ phrases, ‘where your treasure is, there will your heart be also’, cuts both ways. The disciple’s heart should be in heaven and Jesus assure them of the Father’s care for them.

Jesus then tells two parables about being ready. In the first there are echoes of the Passover — the expectation at the time was that the Messiah would come during the night of the Passover meal. Meals in Luke always have Eucharistic element — here it is the master who will be a servant to the servants.

Peter prompts the second parable. He subtly recognises Jesus as the Messiah by calling him ‘Lord’ but asks to whom is the parable addressed. Jesus now speaks about a wise and faithful manager and the stakes are higher.

- What makes you worried or anxious?
- What helps you appreciate God’s care for creation?

Prayer

O God,
on whom our faith rests secure
and whose kingdom we await,
sustain us by word and sacrament
and keep us alert for the coming of the Son of Man,
that we may welcome him without delay.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.