

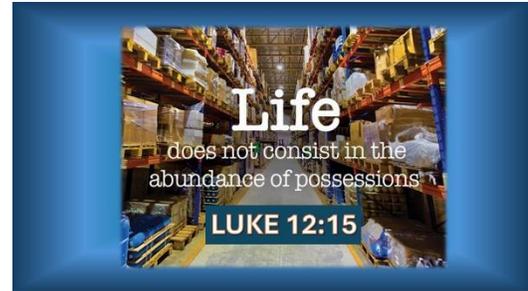
## August 3rd, 2025 Lectionary Notes

### The Readings on This Day

*\*\*\*Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

**Sunday, July 31–August 6**

### Lectionary 18



“For you have died,” writes the author of Colossians. We gather, corpses all, to celebrate our new selves which are hidden with Christ in God.

### [Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23](#)

By setting this passage from Ecclesiastes next to Luke’s parable, the lectionary sets us between the truth of the Teacher’s disgust with the world’s values and the practical necessities of living in the real world. Even the societal expectation that one’s eldest son will inherit one’s property is debunked. Ecclesiastes is the Bible’s most disheartening book, and the church demonstrates its awareness of the complexity of living before God by recognizing also this book as “word of God, word of life.”

### [The Psalm for the Day](#)

Having heard the despairing words of Ecclesiastes, we join together in [Psalm 49:1-12](#). It is as if we also search for wisdom and yet come to agree with the reading that even people who are wise finally die. This psalm exemplifies the advice that somewhere in every Sunday worship we face the fact of death.

### [Colossians 3:1-11](#)

This, the last of four semi-continuous readings from Colossians, fits well with today’s gospel by listing greed as idolatry. Baptism remakes us, returning us to God’s intention, in which Christ is our all.

### [Luke 12:13-21](#)

Luke assumes an economically successful audience for his parable, which challenges contemporary Christians in capitalist economies who ought to save for old age. Our treasure is in God, and our very life is held in God’s hands.