

**Addresses  
for  
Morning and Evening Prayer**

**according to the  
1943 Lectionary  
of the  
USA 1928 Book of Common Prayer**

**Intended for use  
by Layreaders  
in the absence of a priest**

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**Trinity 13**

Trinity 13 (There are three choices of propers for each office this week) A Homily is provided for Morning Prayer A . Others are to be written.

### **Morning Prayer A**

#### **First Lesson: Ecclesiasticus 17:1-15**

*Here beginneth the seventeenth chapter  
of the book called Ecclesiasticus.*

1: The Lord created man of the earth, and turned him into it again.

2: He gave them few days, and a short time, and power also over the things therein.

3: He endued them with strength by themselves, and made them according to his image,

4: And put the fear of man upon all flesh, and gave him dominion over beasts and fowls.

5: They received the use of the five operations of the Lord, and in the sixth place he imparted them understanding, and in the seventh speech, an interpreter of the cogitations thereof.

6: Counsel, and a tongue, and eyes, ears, and a heart, gave he them to understand.

7: Withal he filled them with the knowledge of understanding, and shewed them good and evil.

8: He set his eye upon their hearts, that he might shew them the greatness of his works.

9: He gave them to glory in his marvellous acts for ever, that they might declare his works with understanding.

10: And the elect shall praise his holy name.

11: Beside this he gave them knowledge, and the law of life for an heritage.

12: He made an everlasting covenant with them, and shewed them his judgments.

28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

*Here endeth the Second Lesson.*

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**Homily to be written**  
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13: Their eyes saw the majesty of his glory, and their ears heard his glorious voice.

14: And he said unto them, Beware of all unrighteousness; and he gave every man commandment concerning his neighbour.

15: Their ways are ever before him, and shall not be hid from his eyes.

*Here endeth the First Lesson.*

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**Second Lesson: Mark 3:20-21, 31-35**

*Here beginneth the twentieth verse of the third chapter of the Gospel according to St. Mark.*

20 And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.

21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

**31** There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him.

32 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.

33 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?

34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

*Here endeth the Second Lesson.*

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## Homily

From the Old Testament lesson this morning:

*"The Lord created man of the earth,  
and turned him into it again.  
He gave them few days, and a short time,  
and power also over the things therein.  
He endued them with strength by themselves,  
and made them according to his image,"*

Have you ever stopped to think

-- really think --

what an amazing creation you are?

You were made from the earth,  
from the natural world that surrounds you,  
and were placed in the middle of it..

Like everything else in nature,  
you were put here only for a little time.

Things wear out, and so will you,  
but, wait, these few verses

tell us three remarkable things about ourselves:

First: We have power over the things of nature.  
We are not simply controlled by what is around us,  
but we can change it. We can bend it.  
We can use it for our own purposes.  
Which also means we can abuse it, as we have.

Second: We have strength in ourselves.  
We can find ways to do things  
that seem not to be possible,  
to rise above what we seem to be.  
We have a strength  
different from what is around us,  
a strength we can use wisely,  
a strength with which we can do ill.

God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being  
grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command  
thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of  
her. And he came out the same hour.

19 And when her masters saw that the hope of  
their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas,  
and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

20 And brought them to the magistrates, saying,  
These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble  
our city,

21 And teach customs, which are not lawful for us  
to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.

22 And the multitude rose up together against  
them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes,  
and commanded to beat them.

23 And when they had laid many stripes upon  
them, they cast them into prison, charging the  
jailor to keep them safely:

24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust  
them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast  
in the stocks.

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and  
sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard  
them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so  
that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and  
immediately all the doors were opened, and every  
one's bands were loosed.

27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his  
sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew  
out his sword, and would have killed himself, sup-  
posing that the prisoners had been fled.

LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

29 And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was.

30 And the king said unto him, Turn aside, and stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.

31 And, behold, Cushy came; and Cushy said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.

32 And the king said unto Cushy, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cushy answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.

33 And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

*Here endeth the First Lesson.*

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**Second Lesson: Acts 16:16-34**

*Here beginneth the sixteenth verse of the sixteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.*

16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high

Third: We were made in the image of God.

That's no small thing.

We'll never uncover all the implications of that, but by that knowledge we know this:

that our destiny is

to be something more than we are,

and our daily reality is to fall laughably short of such a magnificent image.

The passage goes on to speak of the five senses, and then of understanding, the power of reason, and of language,

and from there that uniquely human thing, a moral sense, and the ability to worship:

*"Withal he filled them*

*with the knowledge of understanding,*

*and shewed them good and evil. ...*

*And the elect shall praise his holy name. "*

God has built us in such a remarkable fashion, has entrusted us with such great responsibility, and has given us His Law,

written in our hearts,

in the Holy Scriptures,

and in the guidance of the Church.

And God holds us responsible for all these gifts.

*"Their ways are ever before him,*

*and shall not be hid from his eyes."*

We heard from St. Mark's Gospel

how one day Jesus' brethren

and the Blessed Mother

came to call Him out of a meeting.

Perhaps they feared for His safety.

After all He was speaking so forthrightly  
that it upset the powers that be,  
putting him, perhaps, in some danger,  
and even some of His friends  
seem to have wondered if He'd gone crazy.

He said something startling.  
Instead of responding to His family,  
he turned to the crowd around him,  
and said, "You are my family"  
"Anyone that hears the Word of God,  
as I am preaching it,  
and obeys,  
is my family."

What is he telling us?  
Really, it's the same as we heard  
in Ecclesiasticus.  
We were created to be something special.  
We bear the image of God.  
Jesus came to take our human nature upon Him,  
to be not only our Savior,  
but our Brother.  
But you have to act like part of the family  
to sit down at the family table.  
Remember the Prodigal son.  
He was very much the son of his father,  
but, so long as he abused his privilege,  
so long as He ignored his father's will,  
He was not treated as a son,  
but wandered alone,  
mourned by his father.  
He came to himself.  
Jesus came to show us ourselves,

LORD hath avenged him of his enemies.  
20 And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear  
tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another  
day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because  
the king's son is dead.  
21 Then said Joab to Cush, Go tell the king what  
thou hast seen. And Cush bowed himself unto  
Joab, and ran.  
22 Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again  
to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also  
run after Cush. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt  
thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings  
ready?  
23 But howsoever, said he, let me run. And he said  
unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of  
the plain, and overran Cush.  
24 And David sat between the two gates: and the  
watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto  
the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and  
behold a man running alone.  
25 And the watchman cried, and told the king.  
And the king said, If he be alone, there is tidings in  
his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near.  
26 And the watchman saw another man running:  
and the watchman called unto the porter, and said,  
Behold another man running alone. And the king  
said, He also bringeth tidings.  
27 And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running  
of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the  
son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good  
man, and cometh with good tidings.  
28 And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king,  
All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his  
face before the king, and said, Blessed be the

7 Where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand men.

8 For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

9 And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

10 And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.

11 And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle.

12 And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom.

13 Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against me.

14 Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

**19** Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the

both the mess we've made of ourselves,  
and the promise that has always been in us.

Let's really hear Him.  
Let's hear His Word,  
repent and accept His grace,  
partake of His sacraments,  
and sit down with him as His brothers.

Let us pray.

Teach us, Lord,  
to hear the words thou hast spoken.  
Help us that we may hear, mark, learn,  
and inwardly digest them.  
Restore us to the promise thou didst give  
at the foundation of the earth,  
and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

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## Morning Prayer B

### **First Lesson: Hab 1:12-2:4, 14**

*Here beginneth the twelfth verse of the first chapter of the Prophet Habakkuk.*

12 Art thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction.

13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?

14 And makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, that have no ruler over them?

15 They take up all of them with the angle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag: therefore they rejoice and are glad.

16 Therefore they sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag; because by them their portion is fat, and their meat plenteous.

17 Shall they therefore empty their net, and not spare continually to slay the nations?

**2:1** I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.

2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

*Here endeth the Second Lesson.*

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**Homily to be written**  
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## Evening Prayer C

### **First Lesson: 2 Sam 18:1, 6-14, 19-33**

*Here beginneth the eighteenth chapter of the Second Book of Samuel.*

1 And David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds over them.

**6** So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim;

**Second Lesson: Luke 10:23-37**

*Here beginneth the twenty-third verse of the tenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke.*

23 And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:

24 For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the

3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

**14** For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

*Here endeth the First Lesson.*

**Second Lesson: Heb 10:35-39**

*Here beginneth the thirty-fifth verse of the tenth chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews.*

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

*Here endeth the Second Lesson.*

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**Homily to be written**  
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## Morning Prayer C

### **First Lesson: Gen 43:1-5, 11-16, 26-34**

*Here beginneth the forty-third chapter of the Book of Genesis..*

1 And the famine was sore in the land.

2 And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go again, buy us a little food.

3 And Judah spake unto him, saying, The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.

4 If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food:

5 But if thou wilt not send him, we will not go down: for the man said unto us, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.

**11** And their father Israel said unto them, If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds:

12 And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight:

13 Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man:

14 And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.

name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.

24 And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

25 Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose:

26 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,

27 And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee.

28 At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates:

29 And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.

*Here endeth the First Lesson.*

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## Evening Prayer B

### **First Lesson: Deut 14:10-29**

*Here beginneth the tenth verse of the twenty-ninth chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy.*

10 And whatsoever hath not fins and scales ye may not eat; it is unclean unto you.

11 Of all clean birds ye shall eat.

12 But these are they of which ye shall not eat: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray,

13 And the glede, and the kite, and the vulture after his kind,

14 And every raven after his kind,

15 And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind,

16 The little owl, and the great owl, and the swan,

17 And the pelican, and the gier eagle, and the cormorant,

18 And the stork, and the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat.

19 And every creeping thing that flieth is unclean unto you: they shall not be eaten.

20 But of all clean fowls ye may eat.

21 Ye shall not eat of anything that dieth of itself: thou shalt give it unto the stranger that is in thy gates, that he may eat it; or thou mayest sell it unto an alien: for thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

22 Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

23 And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his

15 And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

16 And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men home, and slay, and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon.

**26** And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth.

27 And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?

28 And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance.

29 And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son.

30 And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.

31 And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread.

32 And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews; for that is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

33 And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another.

34 And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of their's. And they drank, and were merry with him.

*Here endeth the First Lesson.*

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**Second Lesson: Heb 13:1-21**

*Here beginneth the thirteenth chapter  
of the Epistle to the Hebrews*

1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

some of whom have already proven that they won't manage it well.

You see, God provides for our needs, and He also provides us with the ability to worship Him, both directly, and through the poor, the sick, the distressed, those in whom Jesus said we will meet Him.

Let us pray.

O God, Almighty and merciful, who healest those that are broken in heart, and turnest the sadness of the sorrowful to joy; Let thy fatherly goodness be upon all that thou hast made. Remember in pity such as are this day destitute, homeless, or forgotten of their fellow-men. Bless the congregation of thy poor. Uplift those who are cast down. Mightily befriend innocent sufferers, and sanctify to them the endurance of their wrongs. Cheer with hope all discouraged and unhappy people, and by thy heavenly grace preserve from falling those whose penury tempteth them to sin; though they be troubled on every side, suffer them not to be distressed; though they be perplexed, save them from despair. Almighty God, whose loving hand hath given us all that we possess; Grant us grace that we may honour thee with our substance, and remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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He was quoting the Book of Deuteronomy, the same book that gives instructions for the elaboration of Temple worship, that, without being stingy with formal rites, there is more to worship than just these:

*“If there be among you a poor man ... thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, ... Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou putteth thine hand unto. For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.”*

It matters how we use our money. God holds us responsible for our stewardship, for our management of all that He has given us; and, yes, we are expected to use it wisely, but the wisdom of God requires of us that it not be spent only on what seems practical, but that some of it appear to the practical mind to be wasted; that some of it be used in ways that seem foolish to the material-minded, for the splendor of the worship of God; and that some of it be simply given away to those who have less,

9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.

12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

18 Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

19 But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*Here endeth the Second Lesson.*

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**Homily to be written**  
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**Evening Prayer A**

**First Lesson: Deut 15:7-15**

*Here beginneth the seventh verse of the fifteenth chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy.*

7 If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:

8 But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.

as a witness to the sacrifice He came to offer, for the sins of all mankind.

Now, this passage is often used as a justification for the huge sums and enormous effort spent on the worship of God; and it certainly should be.

The first and great commandment, as we hear in the Prayer Book Mass, is to Love the Lord our God with ALL our heart, soul and mind, and as might we add, with ALL our money as well. That is indeed.

The expensive ointment poured out on Jesus' feet was not wasted.

The woman knew that, even though His closest friends did not.

A great deal of expense had gone into the building of the Temple, and Temple worship was expensive.

That was only right.

Wonderful buildings,

costly vestments,

vessels of precious metal,

and beautiful works of art

are part and parcel of the worship

of the Holy Catholic Church,

and that is only right.

Our God is to be worshiped with all that we have.

But hear Jesus well,

*“The poor you have always with you.”*

other than that he had a dread disease,  
 or perhaps had been cured of the disease.  
 He knew, at any rate, what rejection felt like.  
 Lepers were avoided, as they say,  
 “Like the plague”.  
 Unlike most lepers, however,  
 he seems to have had money,  
 and was thus able to put on a party,  
 with Jesus as the honored guest.  
 Maybe Jesus had healed him.  
 We don’t know. We aren’t told,  
 but it seems a very possible thing.

At any rate, in this house where there was,  
 or had been, such suffering,  
 Jesus sat at table and a woman came to him.  
 We don’t know who she was.  
 Some have said Mary Magdalene,  
 others have claimed she was a prostitute,  
 but we just don’t know.  
 She had been saving.  
 She had an expensive jar  
 full of even more expensive ointment,  
 that could have been sold for a lot of money,  
 and, adoring, poured it on Jesus’ feet.  
 What a waste!  
 The disciples knew better than to talk about  
 how she could have supported herself  
 by selling it,  
 but they grumbled that the proceeds  
 could certainly have been used to feed the poor.

Jesus accepted this offering of worship  
 He accepted it as preparation for His burial,

9 Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked  
 heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release,  
 is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor  
 brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry  
 unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto  
 thee.

10 Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart  
 shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him:  
 because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall  
 bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou  
 puttest thine hand unto.

11 For the poor shall never cease out of the land:  
 therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open  
 thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and  
 to thy needy, in thy land.

12 And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew  
 woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six  
 years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him  
 go free from thee.

13 And when thou sendest him out free from thee,  
 thou shalt not let him go away empty:

14 Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy  
 flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress:  
 of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed  
 thee thou shalt give unto him.

15 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a  
 bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy  
 God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this  
 thing to day.

*Here endeth the First Lesson.*

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**Second Lesson: Matt. 26:6-13**

*Here beginneth the sixth verse of the twenty-sixth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew.*

6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.

8 But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

10 When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.

11 For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.

13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

*Here endeth the Second Lesson.*

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**Homily**

Money is important.

No one denies that.

Our money is the symbol of all the material things that God provides so that human life can be lived.

We work hard all our lives for that money, and it is that money with which we buy food, shelter, and clothing, all the necessities of life, and the things that gave us pleasure as well.

With money we provide for ourselves, and for our families, and that is how it should be.

But is that really all that money and the other material blessings are given to us for?

A Christian has to respond NO to that question.

There was a popular song a few years ago that listed one legitimate pleasure after another, and each time said,

“If that’s all there is to life, just keep dancing.”

If that’s all there is, it doesn’t really mean much, life has no real point, and then it ends.

The lessons today are both concerned with this question, and both answer it in ways that aren’t really very practical at all

We hear about a dinner party, at the house of one Simon, a leper. We don’t know anything about him