

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–26

²Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity. . . .

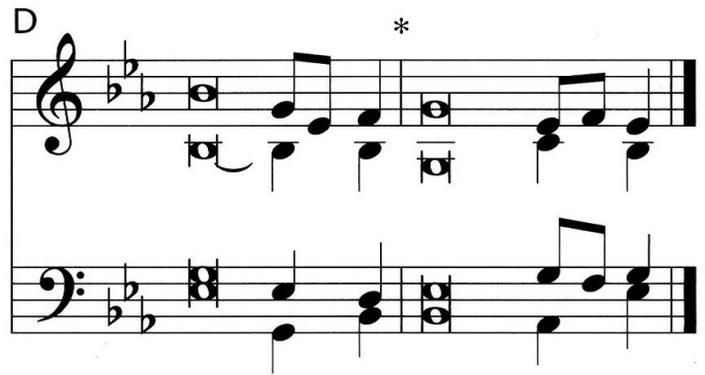
¹²I the Preacher have been king over Israel
in Jerusalem. ¹³And I applied my heart to seek
and to search out by wisdom all that is done
under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God
has given to the children of man to be busy with.

¹⁴I have seen everything that is done under the
sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after
wind. . . .

¹⁸I hated all my toil in which I toil under
the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man
who will come after me, ¹⁹and who knows
whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be
master of all for which I toiled and used my
wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I
turned about and gave my heart up to despair
over all the toil of my labors under the sun,
²¹because sometimes a person who has toiled
with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave
everything to be enjoyed by someone who did
not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

²²What has a man from all the toil and striving of
heart with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³For
all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a
vexation. Even in the night his heart does not
rest. This also is vanity.

²⁴There is nothing better for a person than
that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment
in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of
God, ²⁵for apart from him who can eat or who
can have enjoyment? ²⁶For to the one who
pleases him God has given wisdom and
knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has
given the business of gathering and collecting,
only to give to one who pleases God. This also is
vanity and a striving after wind.

**Psalm 100**

¹Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all the earth!*

²Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with | singing!

³Know that the Lord, | he is God!*

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people,
and the sheep of his | pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his | courts with praise!*

Give thanks to him; | bless his name!

⁵For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures for- | ever,*
and his faithfulness to all gener- | ations.

Colossians 3:1–11

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Luke 12:13–21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."