

READING

Colossians 3.1-14

<sup>3</sup> Therefore, if you were raised with Christ, look for the things that are above where Christ is sitting at God's right side. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things above and not things on earth.

<sup>3</sup> You died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> So put to death the parts of your life that belong to the earth, such as sexual immorality, moral corruption, lust, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup> The wrath of God is coming upon disobedient people because of these things. <sup>7</sup> You used to live this way, when you were alive to these things. <sup>8</sup> But now set aside these things, such as anger, rage, malice, slander, and obscene language. <sup>9</sup> Don't lie to each other. Take off the old human nature with its practices <sup>10</sup> and put on the new nature, which is renewed in knowledge by conforming to the image of the one who created it. <sup>11</sup> In this image there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all things and in all people.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other.

<sup>14</sup> And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:34-35; 44-53 Common English Bible (CEB)

34 Jesus said all these things to the crowds in parables, and he spoke to them only in parables. 35 This was to fulfill what the prophet spoke:

*I'll speak in parables;*

*I'll declare what has been hidden since the beginning of the world.*

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that somebody hid in a field, which someone else found and covered up. Full of joy, the finder sold everything and bought that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. 46 When he found one very precious pearl, he went and sold all that he owned and bought it.

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that people threw into the lake and gathered all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, they pulled it to the shore, where they sat down and put the good fish together into containers. But the bad fish they threw away. 49 That's the way it will be at the end of the present age. The angels will go out and separate the evil people from the righteous people, 50 and will throw the evil ones into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

51 "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

They said to him, "Yes."

52 Then he said to them, "Therefore, every legal expert who has been trained as a disciple for the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings old and new things out of their treasure chest."

53 When Jesus finished these parables, he departed.