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| The Lessons Appointed for Use on the | http://www.lectionarypage.net/Art/Newshield.gif |
| Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany |
| Year C RCL |

Sirach 27:4-7

*or* Isaiah 55:10-13

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Luke 6:39-49

Psalm 92 or 92:1-4,11-14

## The Collect

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The First Reading

### Sirach 27:4-7

When a sieve is shaken, the refuse appears;  
so do a person's faults when he speaks.

The kiln tests the potter's vessels;  
so the test of a person is in his conversation.

Its fruit discloses the cultivation of a tree;  
so a person's speech discloses the cultivation of his mind.

Do not praise anyone before he speaks,  
for this is the way people are tested.

*or*

## Old Testament

### Isaiah 55:10-13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,   
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

## The Psalm

### Psalm 92 or 92:1-4,11-14

Bonum est confiteri

1 It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, \*  
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

2 To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning \*  
and of your faithfulness in the night season;

3 On the psaltery, and on the lyre, \*  
and to the melody of the harp.

4 For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord; \*  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

5 [Lord, how great are your works! \*  
your thoughts are very deep.

6 The dullard does not know,   
nor does the fool understand, \*  
that though the wicked grow like weeds,   
and all the workers of iniquity flourish,

7 They flourish only to be destroyed for ever; \*  
but you, O Lord, are exalted for evermore.

8 For lo, your enemies, O Lord,   
lo, your enemies shall perish, \*  
and all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.

9 But my horn you have exalted like the horns of wild bulls; \*  
I am anointed with fresh oil.

10 My eyes also gloat over my enemies, \*  
and my ears rejoice to hear the doom of the wicked who rise up against me.]

11 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, \*  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

12 Those who are planted in the house of the Lord \*  
shall flourish in the courts of our God;

13 They shall still bear fruit in old age; \*  
they shall be green and succulent;

14 That they may show how upright the Lord is, \*  
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.

## The New Testament

### 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

## The Gospel

### Luke 6:39-49

Jesus told the people a parable: "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, `Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

"Why do you call me `Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house."

Optional parts of the readings are set off in square brackets.

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