

Thursday, March 25

Readings: Psalm 31:9-16
 Isaiah 53:10-12
 Hebrews 2:1-9

Prayer: *O God, from the very beginning of time you commanded the earth to bring forth vegetation and every fruit of every kind. You provide the sower with seed and give bread to eat. Grant, we pray, that this land, enriched by your bounty and cultivated by human hands, may be fertile with abundant crops. Then your people, enriched by the gifts of your goodness, will praise you unceasingly now and for all ages unending. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*⁶⁴

Focal Verse: "Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it."
 Hebrews 2:1

Reflection:

The biblical metaphor of the steward has assumed the status of a symbol in our time. And if we ask why this is so ... we must answer that Christians are realizing ... that it is the world that they and all of God's human creatures have been called to serve and to keep. Stewardship ... describes the vocation that God intended and intends for the human creature in the midst of God's good creation.

The steward in the biblical tradition is not first of all an individual but a community. It means that our personal stewardship is a participation in the stewardship of a community – a community whose corporate stewardship is in turn its participation in the still greater and more expansive work of the chief steward, Jesus.

The Christian community – the church – is called to be, and *can* be, a place of reconciliation, where trust between persons is being learned, where those who are "many" may begin nonetheless to act as "one body." Christian stewardship is not about lovely ideas. Its basis in reality is not a sentiment but an event: "Jesus Christ and him crucified." It is into this event that we are baptized – into this stewardship that we are being incorporated.

Will Christians find again the confidence, not only to love the world, but to show the world that God loves it too?⁶⁵

2

Obey responsibly

to glorify God as a faithful proclamation of God's word. We acknowledge our faith and show our faith in the gospel for the glory of God and for the building up of the body of Christ. This takes courage. It involves our life-long obedience, including the ways we treat our families, others, and ourselves.

**"... you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ."
 2 Corinthians 9:13**

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

⁶⁴ <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/climate/parishesprayerresources.pdf>

⁶⁵ Hall, Douglas John, the steward: a Biblical symbol come of age, Wipf and Stock Publishing, p. 122, 132, 219 and 226-7.