

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)

Surrounded by Wealth, Blind to Charity

What does the rich man do, surrounded by a great supply of many blessings beyond all numbering? In distress and anxiety, he speaks the words of poverty. He says, "What should I do?" ... He does not look to the future. He does not raise his eyes to God.

He does not count it worth his while to gain for the mind those treasures that are above in heaven. He does not cherish love for the poor or desire the esteem it gains. He does not sympathize with suffering.

It gives him no pain nor awakens his pity. Still more irrational, he settles for himself

the length of his life, as if he would also reap this from the ground. He says, "I will say to myself, 'Self, you have goods laid up for many years. Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.'" "O rich man," one may say, "You have storehouses for your fruits, but where will you receive your many years? By the decree of God, your life is shortened."

"God," it tells us, "said to him, 'You fool, this night they will require of you your soul. Whose will these things be that you have prepared?'"

Saint Cyril of Alexandria