

The Living Word

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

28 September 2025

First Reading Am 6:1, 4-7

You who give yourself to licentiousness and revelry will be exiled.

The almighty Lord says this:
Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion
and to those who feel so safe on the
mountain of Samaria.

Lying on ivory beds
and sprawling on their divans,
they dine on lambs from the flock,
and stall-fattened veal;
they bawl to the sound of the harp,
they invent new instruments of music like
David,
they drink wine by the bowlful,
and use the finest oil for anointing
themselves,
but about the ruin of Joseph they do not
care at all.

That is why they will be the first to be exiled;
the sprawlers' revelry is over.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. v.2

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *(R.)*
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. *(R.)*
3. He upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Tm 6:11-16

Obeys the commandments until the coming of the Lord.

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who at the due time will be revealed
by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all,

the King of kings and the Lord of lords,
who alone is immortal,
whose home is in inaccessible light,
whom no man has seen and no man is
able to see:
to him be honour and everlasting power.
Amen.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 16:19-31

During your life good things came your way just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted while you are in agony.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things come your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning, so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."



Reflection by Greg Sunter

In the Old Testament, it is made very clear that how well the people are living in relationship with God is measured by how well the very least in the society are being treated. Time and again, God makes plain to the people, through the prophets, that what they are expected to do is live in right relationship with one another and with God. The cyclic rise and fall in fortune of the people of Israel is a direct result of the way in which they treat the poor and lowly of the society. When all in the society are properly cared for, Israel flourishes; but when the widows and orphans and other marginalised people are neglected and even rejected, then trouble befalls Israel. Today's first reading, from the prophet Amos, is an example of this cycle and an example of the role the prophets played in calling the people back to faithfulness with God and faithfulness with one another. Amos berates those who luxuriate in comfort whilst ignoring the plight of others.

The theme continues then into the gospel passage. The rich man lives in extravagant luxury but ignores the plight of Lazarus who is starving at his door. (This is not the same Lazarus that Jesus raised from the dead.) Both men die and, as Jesus taught over and over again, the poor man Lazarus is welcomed into the kingdom of God but the rich man, who ignored his neighbour, is trapped in Hades. When the rich man asks that Lazarus be sent back to life to warn others of the fate that awaits them, Abraham reminds him that the people of Israel have had a long line of prophets calling them back to faithfulness but their message has been ignored.

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Help the angels
take Lazarus
up to heaven.

St Teresa of the child Jesus was born at Alencon, France in 1873. She entered the Carmelite convent of Lisieux at a young age and was recognised for her humility, simplicity and confidence in God. She died of tuberculosis in 1897, at the age only 24. Her autobiography, 'The Story of a Soul', was published after her death—she also left many letters, poems, religious plays and prayers. Teresa was canonised in 1925 and in 1997, Pope John Paul II declared her the thirty-third Doctor of the Church; the youngest person and only third woman to receive this title.



Crossword



Across

- 1: God's special messengers
- 3: where wicked people go when they die
- 6: the element that burns and gives off heat and light
- 8: experiencing pain or distress
- 10: someone who begs
- 11: the opposite of good

Down

- 2: something that costs a lot of money is described as this
- 4: the poor man who ate scraps from the table of the rich man
- 5: feel sorry for someone
- 7: the animals that licked the sores of the poor man
- 9: glad
- 10: placed in the ground

