

And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not do so, and none may cross from there to us.” And he said, “Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house for I have five brothers so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.” But Abraham said, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.” And he said, “No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.””

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

Like the message of Amos, this familiar parable urges us to consider and to come to the aid of our neighbour; to use our possessions to gain life with God. But note how we come to know God - not through miraculous signs, but through *Moses and the Prophets* - the Scriptures, the revealed Word of God. It is through God's Word that we come to know his Son and understand his miracles and it is in the teachings of the Lord, that God's Word finds fulfilment. Let us be open to his Word during this coming week and so come to life!

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us.

Communion Antiphon

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Prayer after Communion

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY

Year C

28th September 2025

Store up Treasure For Yourselves In Heaven

Last week we began reading chapter 16 of Luke's Gospel - the parable of the shrewd steward, and this week we complete the chapter with a second parable, the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus. Both parables teach us how to use money in order to store up treasure for ourselves in heaven.

The prophet Amos, in our First Reading, prepares us to hear the Gospel. He calls the people to turn from their sin and selfishness back to God, seeking his ways of love and justice. This theme is picked up in Psalm 145 when we hear that God loves the just and protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. We are invited to cry out: My soul, give praise to the LORD.

Entrance Antiphon

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Collect

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

FIRST READING: AMOS 6: 1a, 4-7

Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: ‘Woe to those who are at ease in Sion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria.

‘Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from

the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

The prophet Amos, unlike other prophets was not from court or a priestly family, but was a man of the land who looked after sheep and sycamore-fig groves. He was called to preach in the Northern kingdom of Israel around 760 – 750 BC. At the time Israel was politically secure and was enjoying great prosperity. However, they had also grown spiritually smug, confident that God was with them, no matter what. They had turned to other gods; indulged themselves in luxurious living, became immoral, corrupt and oppressed the poor.

In today's passage, Amos doesn't so much attack the people's wealth, but how they use it - They live totally for today, for themselves, seeking their own pleasure and happiness, at the expense of the poor. They had forgotten their responsibility to think and care for their neighbour. Who do I show myself a neighbour to?

PSALM: 146(145): 7. 8-9a. 9b-10.

Response: *My soul, give praise to the LORD.*

It is the LORD who does justice to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the LORD who sets prisoners free.

It is the LORD who opens the eyes of the blind, the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the LORD who loves the just, the LORD who protects the stranger.

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The LORD will reign for ever, your God, O Sion, from age to age.

SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 6: 11-16

O man of God, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which

you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honour and eternal dominion. **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

We continue reading Paul's letter to Timothy, the leader of the Church in Ephesus, written around AD 64. Realizing that he wouldn't be able to get back to Ephesus for some time, Paul writes this letter to develop the charge that he had given to Timothy and also to help structure and encourage the growing Church.

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: LUKE 16: 19-31

At that time: Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. and at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

And he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame."

But Abraham said, "Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.