

Sunday, September 19, 2010
Lectionary 25
Proper 20
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4–7

A reading from _____.

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.\

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 113

Refrain: The LORD lifts up the poor from the ashes. (Ps. 113:7)

¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants ¹of the LORD;
praise the name ¹of the LORD.
²**Let the name of the ¹LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- ¹evermore.**
³From the rising of the sun to its ¹going down
let the name of the ¹LORD be praised.
⁴**The LORD is high a- ¹bove all nations,**

God's glory a- |bove the heavens. R

⁵Who is like the | LORD our God,
who sits en- | throned on high,

**⁶but stoops | to behold
the heavens | and the earth?**

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,

**⁸enthroning them | with the rulers,
with the rulers | of the people.**

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1–7

A reading from _____.

The Pastoral Epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all — this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1–13

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God hears the cry of the poor and is near to all in need. Let us pray for our neighbors, our world, and ourselves, trusting in God's mercy and love.

Gracious God, you have ransomed us from the power of death through the gift of your servant, Jesus. By your Spirit, empower your church to pray and struggle for the freedom of all people.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sustaining God, you have given us a world rich with enough food and water for all. We pray for a reverence for the life we share and for a just distribution of the resources of your creation.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you reveal your power in humble service. We pray for all who are in positions of authority, that your people everywhere may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and dignity. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, you raise the poor from the dust and give them places of honor. We pray for those exploited by greed, whose work is dangerous or degrading, or who are in any kind of need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Benevolent God, every good gift comes from you. We pray for the stewardship ministries of our congregation, that in being faithful with what you have given us, others might discover the true riches of your grace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Redeeming God, you desire everyone to be saved and have given us companions on earth to witness to your gospel. We honor the memory of (*name/s and*) all who now rest in you from their labors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All this we ask, gracious God, together with all that is known to you alone, in the name of your risen and anointed Son, through the power of your life-giving Spirit.

Amen.

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