

Sunday, September 26, 2010
Lectionary 26
Proper 21
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

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

A reading from _____.

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

^aAlas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria, ⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of
ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;
⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of music;
⁶who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.\

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146

Refrain: The LORD gives justice to those who are oppressed. (Ps. 146:7)

¹Hal- ¹lelujah!

Praise the LORD, ¹O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long ¹as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I ¹have my being.

³Put not your ¹trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there ¹is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they re- ¹turn to earth,**

and in that day¹ their thoughts perish. R

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob¹ for their help,
whose hope is in the¹ LORD their God;

**⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that¹ is in them;
who keeps promis-¹ es forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to¹ those who hunger.
The LORD sets the¹ captive free.

**⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who¹ are bowed down;
the LORD¹ loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares¹ for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way¹ of the wicked.

**¹⁰The LORD shall¹ reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! R**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6–19

A reading from _____.

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In 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, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time — he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19–31

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is "lifted up" and the rich one is "sent away empty." Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

¹⁹There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on 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.' ²⁵But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house — ²⁸for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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.

Great and gracious God, we pray for your church, that by sharing in the ministry of Jesus, the world might come to share in the life that truly is life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Great and generous God, you richly provide us everything from the goodness of your creation.

Protect the earth and its creatures from harm and fill us with gratitude for all your gifts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Great and sovereign God, you rule the nations with justice. Preserve those in elected office from the love of money, that walking in the ways of righteousness they might serve your people with integrity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Great and merciful God, you lift up those who are bowed down. Be with all who are lonely, hurting, or depressed, and all who are in need of your loving presence (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Great and loving God, you uphold the orphan and the widow. Strengthen the outreach ministries of our congregation, that your care and compassion might be made known through us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Great and living God, your glory is reflected in the lives of your saints. We praise you for (*name/s and*) all who have fought the good fight of faith and now dwell with you in light. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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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