

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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 the 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 came 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 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."

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

WEALTH AND CARE FOR OTHERS

Complacency can be a misguided, ill-founded and inappropriate response to power and privilege. The northern kingdom of Samaria was one that had a period of expansion and wealth while the southern kingdom suffered economically. Amos fearlessly proclaimed that a time of reckoning was approaching when such wealth would be no defence against the forces that would drag them into exile. He points out that it is their lack of concern for their brothers and sisters in the south that will result in them being the first to be exiled.

In a similar manner, Jesus used the parable of the rich man and Lazarus to remind his listeners that with wealth comes the responsibility to be attentive to the suffering of those who are less fortunate. The sudden reversal of the situations of the poor man and Lazarus is a powerful reminder that the time of accounting may find us unprepared, and our complacency at best a delusion.

As the first letter to Timothy concludes, Timothy is reminded of his responsibilities as a Christian leader and exhorted to keep faithful to the instructions he has been given. There is an air of solemnity as he is called to fulfil his duty in a spirit of faith, love, patience and gentleness until the return of the Lord at the end of time. As Jesus stood up to witness to the truth before Pontius Pilate, Timothy is challenged to let his leadership of the community serve as his testimony when the Lord returns.

Christopher Monaghan CP



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

25 SEPTEMBER 2022

FIRST READING

Amos 6:1, 4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

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 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.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

R. Praise the Lord, my soul! (or 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 Tim 6:11-16

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Obey 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.

■ The word of the Lord.

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!