

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 16:10-13

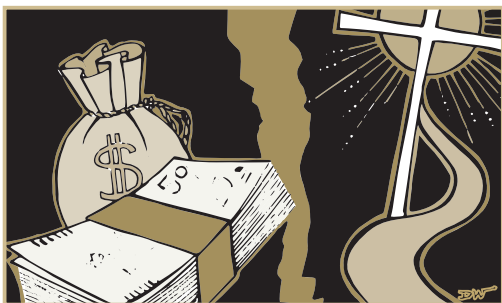
A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

You cannot be slaves both of God and of money.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things can be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own? 'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Longer form Lk 16:1-13



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Breaking Open the Word

NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS

How are we to live in the world and yet remain faithful to the living God? What attitudes to wealth and material goods are appropriate for the person of faith? How are we Christians to balance the demands of the world and those of our faith? Each of us has to address these complex questions and today's readings provide us with some useful orientations.

Amos had the courage to call some of his contemporaries to account because they had come to see their poor brothers and sisters as an opportunity for personal gain. They are reminded that while they have forgotten their responsibilities, God has not. Jesus' statement that none of us can be the servant of two masters goes straight to the heart of the matter. We are called to use material goods astutely but to always remember that these have been entrusted to us.

A regular part of civic life in the ancient world was the worship of the gods of the city and empire. But how were Christians to resolve this dilemma? Timothy's community members are encouraged to live their Christian lives in peace by making it known that they prayed to their own God for their rulers and authorities. It is made clear to them that this is not a case of having divided loyalties. God is the ultimate authority and God's plan is that all be saved through Jesus. By means of this creative response, these Christians were able to remain faithful to the demands of faith and their rulers.

Christopher Monaghan CP

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

18 SEPTEMBER 2022

FIRST READING

Amos 8:4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

The Lord spoke against those who buy the poor for money.

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country,

you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn,
and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat?

Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel,

by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweeping of the wheat.'

The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 112:1-2, 4-8. R. cf. vv. 1, 7

R. Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor.
(or Alleluia!)

1. Praise, O servants of the Lord, / praise the name of the Lord! / May the name of the Lord be blessed / both now and for evermore! **R.**

2. High above all nations is the Lord, / above the heavens his glory. / Who is like the Lord, our God, / who has risen on high to his throne / yet stoops from the heights to look down, / to look down upon heaven and earth? **R.**

3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly, / from the dungheap he raises the poor / to set him in the company of princes, / yes, with the princes of his people. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Tim 2:1-8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to Timothy

Let prayers be offered to God for everyone; he wants all people to be saved.

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and humankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

■ **The word of the Lord.**