

# The Living Word

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

25 September 2022

## First Reading Am 6:1, 4-7

*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 to 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.

## Responsorial Psalm

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

*(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!*

or

*(R.) 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 Tm 6:11-16

*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.

## 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!*

## Gospel Lk 16:19-31

*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 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 come 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 anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and 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."



## Reflection by Nick Brodie

The parable of an unnamed rich man and a poor man named Lazarus challenges our globalised world where actions in one country can so directly affect another. Pointedly, the rich man remains as anonymous as he is uncaring. He is a consumer of fine things. He does not seek to harm Lazarus as such; rather, the rich man simply fails to see the other person. Even in Jesus' time the story upended a social focus on the rich few and the unimportant rest. The world ignores them, but God will not.

Lazarus' very name means one God has helped. In later times, the name's significance endured and framed part of what would now be termed social welfare. 'Lazaretti' and 'lazar houses' were medieval European terms for leper foundations. In these were diseased people, usually very poor, living apart from the wider community. They were often sited beyond the city gate.

Now we know of communities in need far beyond our city limits. Many people labour in sweatshops making clothing for rich countries, have their forests destroyed for foreign cups of coffee, and watch the waters lap higher on their islands for the sake of foreign consumer habits. The question is: Do we see them and act?

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Help the angels  
take Lazarus  
up to heaven.

**S**t Teresa of the child Jesus was born at Alencon, France in 1873. She entered the Carmelite convent of Lisieux at a young age and was recognised for her humility, simplicity and confidence in God. She died of tuberculosis in 1897, at the age only 24. Her autobiography, 'The Story of a Soul', was published after her death—she also left many letters, poems, religious plays and prayers. Teresa was canonised in 1925 and in 1997, Pope John Paul II declared her the thirty-third Doctor of the Church; the youngest person and only third woman to receive this title.



# Crossword



## Across

- 1: God's special messengers
- 3: where wicked people go when they die
- 6: the element that burns and gives off heat and light
- 8: experiencing pain or distress
- 10: someone who begs
- 11: the opposite of good

## Down

- 2: something that costs a lot of money is described as this
- 4: the poor man who ate scraps from the table of the rich man
- 5: feel sorry for someone
- 7: the animals that licked the sores of the poor man
- 9: glad
- 10: placed in the ground

