

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

First Reading — Amos 8:4-7 4

Hear this, you who trample upon the needy, and bring the poor of the land to an end, ⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great, and deal deceitfully with false balances, ⁶that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and sell the refuse of the wheat?" ⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

Responsorial Psalm PS 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8

R. (cf. 1a, 7b) **Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Praise, you servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD.

Blessed be the name of the LORD
both now and forever.

R. **Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

High above all nations is the LORD;
above the heavens is his glory.

Who is like the LORD, our God, who is enthroned
on high

and looks upon the heavens and the earth
below?

R. **Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

He raises up the lowly from the dust;
from the dunghill he lifts up the poor

to seat them with princes,
with the princes of his own people.

R. **Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Second Reading — 1 Timothy 2:1-8

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. ³This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was borne at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. ⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ...

Gospel Reading — Luke 16:1-13

¹He also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. ²And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' ³And the steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out of the stewardship.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' ⁷Then he said to

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another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸The master commended the dishonest steward for his shrewdness; for the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations. ¹⁰'He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

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INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading — Amos 8:4-7 4

1. How should our “sabbath” worship affect our weekday commerce?

Second Reading — 1 Timothy 2:1-8

2. Why is prayer such an integral part of living uprightly as a Christian?

Gospel Reading — Luke 16:1-13

3. Disciples are stewards. What is the relationship between faithfulness and stewardship?
4. Describe the behavior of someone who is “faithful in the unrighteous mammon.”
5. What problems are encountered when someone endeavors to serve two different masters?
6. If someone has had problems with faithfulness in the past, what would you recommend as the next steps ?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.