

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

First Reading — Amos 6:1, 4-7

¹“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel come! ...

⁴“Woe to those who lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the midst of the stall; ⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David invent for themselves instruments of music; ⁶who drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! ⁷Therefore they shall now be the first of those to go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves shall pass away”

Responsorial Psalm PS 146:7, 8-9, 9-10

R. (1b) **Praise the Lord, my soul!**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Blessed he who keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets captives free.

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

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

The LORD gives sight to the blind;
the LORD raises up those who were bowed
down.

The LORD loves the just;

the LORD protects strangers.

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

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.

The LORD shall reign forever;

your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

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

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Second Reading — 1 Timothy 6:11-16

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when 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, ¹⁴I charge you to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ; ¹⁵and this will be made manifest at the proper time by the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Gospel Reading — Luke 16:19-31 19

“There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, ²¹who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; ²³and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Son,

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remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' ²⁷And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, ²⁸for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

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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 6:1, 4-7

1. What are the dangers people face in making an eternal decision from within their current comfort and complacency?

Second Reading — 1 Timothy 6:11-16

2. What does it mean to “aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness”?
3. Describe the attitude and behavior of one who is trying to “take hold of the eternal life to which we have been called.”?

Gospel Reading — Luke 16:19-31

4. When you encounter someone asking for a handout how do you relate to the person? Has God allowed you to encounter other poor people in your life? How do you feel about contact with them?
5. How do you feel about facing eternity? Is it scary to you? Why, or why not?
6. Do you have relatives that need warning about their future eternal direction? What can be done to get the message to them now?

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.