

# Sunday Message

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Year C • 28 September 2025 • Psalter Week 2



### TO SEE LAZARUS AT THE GATE

LUKE 16:19-31

In Jesus' time many people believed that wealth and good fortune were a sign of God's favour, and that bad luck was a punishment from God. This belief was so ingrained that it was often assumed that poor and destitute people were automatically damned, while those who were rich and healthy were destined for heaven.

Jesus' story about the rich man and Lazarus completely reverses these beliefs. In it the rich man ends up in torment while the poor beggar goes to paradise. No wonder his listeners were shocked by what Jesus had to say.

They would also have been shocked by the reason why the rich man was condemned. After all, the rich man did nothing to Lazarus. He did not physically harm him. He didn't get his guards to beat him up or remove him from outside his house. He didn't starve him or inflict the sores Lazarus had on his body. He seemed to do nothing to deserve eternal punishment. And yet he is condemned.

The reason the rich man is condemned is precisely because he did nothing. He turned a blind eye to the poor man at his gate. He was so caught up in his own life he was oblivious to the plight of Lazarus. He just wasn't interested in him. As far as he was concerned, Lazarus wasn't his responsibility. And that's why he is condemned. The rich man is punished not for what he did but because he simply didn't care. ■

## PRAY

There are so many migrants today, people in need. Pray for them and for a more just world.

## DO

Consider joining or supporting an organisation that campaigns on behalf of migrants.

Christianity is not a 'private' religion.

Look at your parish, your neighbourhood. Who is the Lazarus at the gate whose existence you need to be aware of?

## SAY

"Lord, give me a heart like yours. Help me to respond generously to the needs of the poor and oppressed. Amen."

## LEARN

Action for justice is a constitutive part of living the Gospel. Today's Gospel makes it abundantly clear that we will be judged on how we treat the poor, the migrant, the Lazarus at our gate.

## REFLECT

This is World Day of Migrants and Refugees. We know that war in Europe and the Middle East has created more refugees than at any time in decades. It is a major humanitarian crisis.

In his letter for the Holy Year 2025, Pope Francis wrote that Christians must be tangible signs of hope for those who experience hardships of any kind, especially migrants and the poor.

The Holy Father referred often to the plight of refugees, a cause that was close to his heart because his own family were migrants who had left Italy in the 1920s in search of a better life.

"Signs of hope should be present for migrants who leave their homelands behind in search of a better life for themselves and their families," he stated. "Exiles, displaced persons and refugees, whom international tensions force to emigrate in order to avoid war, violence and discrimination, ought to be guaranteed security and access to employment and education, the means

they need to find their place in a new social context."

Pope Francis lamented the closed borders and hard hearts that denied hope to people desperately seeking hope. The huge migration of peoples has led to growing intolerance, xenophobia, nativism, and to the rising popularity of extremist political movements, influenced by a toxic social media and alarmist populist rhetoric that seeks to set peoples against one another.

The Christian community, Pope Francis said, should always be prepared to defend the rights of those who are most vulnerable, opening wide its doors to welcome them, lest anyone ever be robbed of the hope of a better future.

The billions of poor, who often lack the essentials of life, also need hope, Pope Francis wrote. "Echoing the age-old message of the prophets, the Jubilee reminds us that the goods of the earth are not destined for a privileged few, but for everyone," he declared. It is scandalous

that in a world possessed of immense resources, destined largely to producing weapons, the poor continue to be "the majority of the planet's population, billions of people".

"Hunger is a scandal," Pope Francis continued, "an open wound on the body of our humanity, and it summons all of us to a serious examination of conscience."

Therefore, the more affluent nations should forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay them. This is a matter of justice, Pope Francis stated, made all the more serious today by the "ecological debt" that exists, particularly between the global north and south, connected to the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time.

Today's Gospel challenges us not to be blind to the needs of the poor and the deprived. Because we will be judged not just on what we do but on what we fail to do. ■



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*All that you have done to us, O Lord,  
you have done with true judgement,  
for we have sinned against you  
and not obeyed your commandments.  
But give glory to your name  
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.*

**COLLECT**

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING** Amos 6:1a. 4-7

A reading from the Prophet Amos.

Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts:

'Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,  
and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria.

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

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. R. 1b

**R: My soul, give praise to the LORD.**

Or *Alleluia!*

1. It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,  
who does justice 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 opens the eyes of the blind,  
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the LORD who loves the just,  
the LORD who protects the stranger. **R.**
3. The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The LORD will reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, from age to age. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Timothy 6:11-16

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

O man of God, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in 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, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus

Christ, which he will display at the proper time – he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**ACCLAMATION-BEFORE THE GOSPEL** 2 Corinthians 8:9

**R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus Christ, though he was rich,  
yet for your sake he became poor,  
so that you by his poverty might become rich.

**R: Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL** Luke 16:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on 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." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And 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 do so, and none may cross from there to us." And he said, "Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house – for I have five brothers – so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment." But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them." And he said, "No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Grant us, O merciful God,  
that this our offering may find acceptance with you  
and that through it the wellspring of all blessing  
may be laid open before us.

Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,  
by which you have given me hope.*

*This is my comfort when I am brought low.*

Or

*By this we came to know the love of God:  
that Christ laid down his life for us;  
so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord,  
restore us in mind and body,  
that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ,  
to whose suffering we are united  
whenever we proclaim his Death.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*Amen.*