



AMDG
25TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR C
22ND SEPTEMBER 2019



Praise the Lord, who raises the poor

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law
upon love of you and of our neighbour,
grant that, by keeping your precepts,
we may merit to attain eternal life.

This week's readings challenge us to reflect on our attitude towards money. It should never displace our generous and just God from being at the centre of our lives.

In the *First Reading*, Amos attacks those who take advantage of the poor and attempts to enslave them. God will remember their evil deeds.

The *Psalms* call us to praise the Lord who from the height of his throne in heaven bends down to lift up the lowly and set them in the company of princes.

The *Second Reading* stresses that God wants everyone to be saved. So we are to pray for all, especially for those with authority over others in business or government.

In the *Gospel* extract, Jesus tells us to be careful with money. Riches can rule us as a master would a slave, preventing us from using our God-given freedom to love and serve the Lord. Being faithful in small things helps us to focus on the 'genuine riches' in our lives.

This week, I might ask God to help me be more aware of the real riches in my life, and better able to love and serve the Lord through that.

PSALM 112 (113)

R/. Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

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.

High above the 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?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dungheap he raises the poor
to set them in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of their people.

As I settle down to my prayer today, I wonder:
'What are you going to say to me today Lord?'
And in what frame of mind am I to hear you?

Taking my time, I slowly breathe in his love, and breathe out any negativity
plaguing me at the moment.

Maybe I am struck by the response to the psalm. I stay with it for a while.
I ponder.

Who are the poor around me? What is the Lord doing for them?
Do I have a role to play? In practical terms, what *can* I do?

Perhaps I try to see, in my mind's eye, the Lord on his throne, stooping down to
me, lifting me up and setting me with the powerful, with the princes. How does
that make me feel?

Is my response one of praise and thanksgiving ... or disbelief and scepticism ...?

I call the Lord by his name, and tell him what is in my heart.

I listen to him. He knows, he understands.

To conclude and in response, I may want to pray the words of the Magnificat:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

And my spirit exults in God my Saviour...

The Almighty has done great things for me ... Holy is his name.

GOSPEL LUKE 16: 1–13 (part)

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Those who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; those who are dishonest in little things will 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: they 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.’

I make my way to the place I like to go to for my prayer.

Maybe it’s indoors, but it could also be outdoors, walking or sitting in a favourite location.

Perhaps I close my eyes, intently focusing on sounds, smells, or the touch of a much loved object.

I quieten my mind in the way which works best for me.

In time, I read the text from Luke’s Gospel.

Maybe I can imagine myself with the disciples listening to Jesus ... or I can listen to Jesus speaking to me personally.

What feelings arise as I hear Jesus’s words on money and genuine riches?

I ponder: what are my genuine riches?

They may not be related to money, that ‘tainted thing’, but perhaps they may be friendship, family, a fulfilling job ... or...?

I give thanks to the Lord for them and tell him what is in my heart.

Maybe I can ask myself whether these riches sometimes take over and displace the Lord at the centre of my being. I consider my attitude towards God and money.

Am I, as Jesus suggests, the slave of one rather than the other, or do I try to keep a sense of balance so I can focus on what really matters: God deepening his life in me?

Perhaps I spend some time in quiet, wordless contemplation.

In time, I take my leave, thankful for any insights he has given me today.

Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy. *First Reading*

Praise the Lord, who raises the poor. *Psalm*

In every place then, I want people to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument. *Second Reading*

The one who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great. *Gospel*

You cannot be the slave both of God and of money. *Gospel*

*This week's texts if you want to reflect further
Amos 8: 4–7; Psalm 112 (113); 1 Timothy 2: 1–8; Luke 16: 1–13*



What does this image say to me in my prayer?



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