

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Reading 1

Citation: Amos, Chap. 8, Verses 4-7
Amos 8: 4-7

Amos mimics the sly, scheming business person to make his point. You do the same. Then, end with a crescendo of wrath in the last two lines.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos

Hear this, (get listeners' attention!)
you who trample upon the needy
and destroy the poor of the land! (be upset, angry!)

"When will the new moon be over," you ask, (whining voice, except for "you ask")
"that we may sell our grain, (scheming voice)
and the sabbath, (thumbing your nose!)
that we may display the wheat? (very short pause)

We will diminish the ephah, (pick up tempo; scheming)
add to the shekel,
and fix our scales for cheating! (excited) (very short pause)

We will buy the lowly for silver,
and the poor for a pair of sandals;
even the refuse of the wheat we will sell!" (more scheming) (very short pause)
(short pause)

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Never will I forget a thing they have done!
(Amos speaking – anger mounting!)
(God is promising!)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

Citation: 1 Timothy, Chap. 2, Verses 1-8
1 Timothy 2: 1-8

Paul is advising Timothy that those persecuting the community are not to be opposed because God, in His Wisdom, will bring even them to salvation. This is why Jesus did what He did! By opposing their persecutors the community is attempting to substitute itself for Jesus in God's Plan. Paul is solicitous yet firm with Timothy since it is the leader's responsibility to show the followers the way forward.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:	(gentle) (very short pause)
First of all,	(very short pause)
I ask that supplications,	(a genuine request)
prayers, petitions,	
and thanksgivings	
be offered for everyone,	(very short pause)
for kings	
and for all in authority,	
that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life	{gentle
in all devotion and dignity.	{firmness
This is good and pleasing to God	
our savior,	(almost parenthetical)
who wills <u>everyone</u> to be <u>saved</u>	
and to <u>come to knowledge of the truth</u> .	(short pause)
For there is <u>one</u> God.	(very short pause)
There is also <u>one</u> mediator <u>between</u> God and men,	
<u>the man</u>	(firm statement of fact)
Christ Jesus,	(reverent)
who gave himself as <u>ransom for all</u> .	(very short pause)
This was the testimony at the proper time.	
For this I was appointed preacher and apostle	(very short pause)
-- I am speaking the truth,	{almost parenthetical
I am not lying --,	{ “
teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.	(an announcement!)
It is my wish, then,	{gentle but solicitous
that in every place the men should pray,	{ “
lifting up holy hands,	{ “
without anger or argument.	{ “

The word of the Lord.

Proclaim the Word!

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

**There are two forms of the Gospel, today.
Be sure you know which Form is to be used.**

GOSPEL
Longer Form

Citation: Luke, Chap. 16, Verses 1-13
Luke 16: 1-13

Jesus is teaching a difficult concept for many of His listeners – avoiding corruption. Bartering and favor granting/seeking appeared to be the regular coin of their day! He is telling them in no uncertain terms that God (the rich man) doesn't look at things as they do and He is seeking positive results in their lives. Out of fear, most often, we seek to protect ourselves. Jesus insists that this is futile with God. Take your time, Let your listeners "see" the scene unfold and come to realize the significance of Jesus' words of advice and counsel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples,

"A rich man had a steward
who was reported to him for squandering his property. (very short pause)

He summoned him and said,
'What is this I hear about you? (a bit of anger?)
Prepare a full account of your stewardship,
because you can no longer be my steward.' (firm anger)

The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, (alarm; O.M.G!!)
now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me?
I am not strong enough to dig (feeling sorry for himself?)
and I am ashamed to beg. (very short pause)

I know what I shall do
so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, (disregard 1st comma)
they may welcome me into their homes.' (short pause)

He called in his master's debtors one by one. (scheming tone?)
To the first he said,
'How much do you owe my master?' (faster pace = steward)
He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' (slower pace = debtor)
He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. (again, faster pace)
Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.' (very short pause)

Then to another the steward said, 'And you, how much do you owe?' (still scheming)
He replied, 'One hundred kors of wheat.'
The steward said to him, 'Here is your promissory note; (faster pace)

Proclaim the Word!

Proclamation Format

write one for eighty.'

And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently.

"For the children of this world
are more prudent in dealing with their own generation
than are the children of light.

(very short pause)

I tell you,
make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth,
so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

(be the teacher this section)

The person who is trustworthy in very small matters
is also trustworthy in great ones;
and the person who is dishonest in very small matters
is also dishonest in great ones.

If, therefore,
you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth,
who will trust you with true wealth?
If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another,
who will give you what is yours?

(short pause)

No servant can serve two masters.
He will either hate one and love the other,
or be devoted to one and despise the other.

(insist!)

(voice goes up)

(voice goes down) (very short pause)

You cannot serve both God and mammon."

(be very firm!)

The Gospel of the Lord.

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

**There are two forms of the Gospel, today.
Be sure you know which Form is to be used.**

GOSPEL
Shorter Form

Citation: Luke, Chap.16, Verses 10-13
Luke 16: 10-13

See the notes for the Longer Form. This Shorter Form leaves out the background story and, as a result, the concluding sentences cannot be as forcefully proclaimed as is the case with the Longer Form.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples,

The person who is trustworthy in very small matters
is also trustworthy in great ones;

(take your time thru-out)

and the person who is dishonest in very small matters
is also dishonest in great ones.

If, therefore,
you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth,
who will trust you with true wealth?

If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another,
who will give you what is yours?

(very short pause)

No servant can serve two masters.
He will either hate one and love the other,
or be devoted to one and despise the other.

(very short pause)

You cannot serve both God and mammon."

(slow down a bit)

The Gospel of the Lord.