

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

Reading 1

Citation: Amos, Chap. 6, Verses 1a, 4-7
Amos 6: 1a, 4-7

Amos is warning us that our focus on the things of this material world will be our ultimate undoing. The emphasis on "me" instead of "they" or "we" and the welfare of others Amos says has turned our sight from God. He says God will want an accounting. Be the warning Amos!

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos

Thus says the LORD the God of hosts:

Woe to the complacent in Zion!
Lying upon beds of ivory
stretched comfortably on their couches,

they eat lambs taken from the flock,
and calves from the stall!

Improvising to the music of the harp,
like David,
they devise their own accompaniment.

They drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the best oils;

yet
they are not made ill by the collapse of Joseph!

Therefore,
now they shall be the first to go into exile,
and their wanton revelry shall be done away with.

(warning!)

{accusatory!

{ “

{alarm; accusation

{ “ “

(almost mocking?)

(parenthetical)

(“the poor wretches!”)

{accusing

{ “

(very short pause)

(angry surprise! disbelief!)

(very short pause)

(not quite “I told you so!”)

(anger; very firm; insistent)

The word of the Lord.

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Reading 2

Citation: 1 Timothy, Chap. 6, Verses 11-16
1 Timothy 6: 11-16

Paul continues the theme, to an extent, introduced in Amos but focuses directly on the believers in Jesus. "Hew to the narrow path," Paul insists because of the commitment the believers made at their entrance into the community. Paul reminds us, too, that that behavior honors Jesus but also the Father who is THE responsible party for Jesus resurrection. Paul is both the teacher and the cheerleader of God and His Son.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

But you,
man of God, (voice goes down; almost parenthetical)
pursue righteousness, [a LIST!]
devotion,
faith, love,
patience,
and gentleness. (very short pause)

Compete well for the faith. (very short pause)

Lay hold of eternal life,
to which you were called (take your time – this phrase)
when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses. (very short pause)

I charge you
before God,
who gives life to all things,
and before Christ Jesus, (almost parenthetical)
who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate for the noble confession,
to keep the commandment
without stain or reproach
until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ (very short pause)

that the blessed and only ruler
will make manifest at the proper time,
the King of kings [a kind of LIST]
and Lord of lords,
who alone has immortality,
who dwells in unapproachable light,
and whom no human being has seen
or can see. (very short pause)

To him be honor and eternal power. (short pause)

Proclamation Format

Amen.

The word of the Lord.

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year C

GOSPEL

Citation: Luke, Chap. 16, Verses 19-31
Luke 16: 19-31

Jesus teaches through a story that those who put themselves first will have already received their reward by the time they die. Their death will balance the inequity of their living. He says, further, that selfishness blinds us to God's Providence (prophets). He forecasts his abandonment at Calvary. Jesus is ever the gentle teacher. There is no anger here only the sarcasm and sadness of seeing the reality of how many humans live their lives. Be that perceptive teacher!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to the Pharisees: (very short pause)

"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments
and fine linen
and dined sumptuously each day.

And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus,
covered with sores,
who would gladly have eaten his fill
of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table.

Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.

When the poor man died,
he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham.

The rich man also died and was buried, (in contrast to Lazarus)
and from the netherworld,
where he was in torment, (somewhat parenthetical)

he raised his eyes
and saw Abraham far off
and Lazarus at his side.

And he cried out, (raise volume)
'Father Abraham,
have pity on me. (feeling remorse)

Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue,
for I am suffering torment in these flames.' (oh, poor me!)

Abraham replied,
'My child,
remember that you received
what was good during your lifetime (two different stresses)
while Lazarus likewise received what was bad;

Proclaim the Word

Proclamation Format

but now he is comforted here,
whereas you are tormented.

(very short pause)

Moreover,
between us and you a great chasm is established
to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours
or from your side to ours.'

(oh dear, it gets worse!)

He said, 'Then I beg you, father,
send him to my father's house,
for I have five brothers,
so that he may warn them,
lest they too come to this place of torment.'

But Abraham replied,
'They have Moses and the prophets.
Let them listen to them.'

(yeh, yeh!)

(sarcastic)

He said,
'Oh no, father Abraham,
but if someone from the dead goes to them,
they will repent.'

(fearful disbelief)

(I'm sure of this!)

Then Abraham said,
'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets,
neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.' " (increasing sarcasm)
(build intensity)

The Gospel of the Lord.