

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.

Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

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.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Amos 8:4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos.
Listen to this, you who trample on the needy
and try to suppress the poor people of the
country,
you who say, "When will New Moon be over
so that we can sell our corn,
and sabbath, so that we can market our
wheat?
Then by lowering the bushel, raising the
shekel,
by swindling and tampering with the scales
we can buy up the poor for money,
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and get a price even for the sweepings of the
wheat."
The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob,
"Never will I forget a single thing you have
done."
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 112

Response:
Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.
or
Alleluia!

1. 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! (R.)
2. High above all 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? (R.)

3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dungheap he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to
Timothy.

My advice is that, first of all, there should
be prayers offered for everyone – petitions,
intercessions and thanksgiving – and
especially for kings and others in authority,
so that we may be able to live religious and
reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this
is right, and will please God our saviour: he
wants everyone to be saved and reach full
knowledge of the truth. For there is only one
God, and there is only one mediator between
God and humankind, himself a man, Christ
Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for
them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at
the appointed time, and I have been named a
herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the
truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and
the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift
their hands up reverently in prayer, with no
anger or argument.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 16:1-13

(For shorter form read between > <)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

>Jesus said to his disciples, < "There was
a rich man and he had a steward who was
denounced to him for being wasteful with
his property. He called for the man and said,
'What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an
account of your stewardship because you are
not to be my steward any longer.' Then the
steward said to himself, 'Now that my master
is taking the stewardship from me, what am
I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go
begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know
what I will do to make sure that when I am
dismissed from office there will be some to
welcome me into their homes.'

"Then he called his master's debtors one by
one. To the first he said, 'How much do you
owe my master?' 'One hundred measures of
oil' was the reply. The steward said, 'Here,
take your bond; sit down straight away and
write fifty.' To another he said, 'And you,
sir, how much do you owe?' 'One hundred
measures of wheat' was the reply. The
steward said, 'Here, take your bond and write
eighty.'

"The master praised the dishonest steward
for his astuteness. For the children of this
world are more astute in dealing with their
own kind than are the children of light.

"And so I tell you this: use money, tainted
as it is, to win you friends, and thus make
sure that when it fails you, they will welcome
you into the tents of eternity. > The man who

can be trusted in little things can be trusted
in great; the man who is dishonest in little
things can 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: he 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.<

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray,
the offerings of your people,
that what they profess with devotion and faith
may be theirs through these heavenly
mysteries.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be
carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your
statutes.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously raise up, O Lord,
those you renew with this Sacrament,
that we may come to possess your
redemption
both in mystery and in the manner of our life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



DISHONEST OR JUST STREET-WISE? (LUKE 16:1-13)

Luke regards wealth and material possessions with a rather sceptical eye. In his opinion, they are a positive danger for anyone who wants to be a disciple of Jesus.

Today he gives perhaps grudging approval to the prudent use of money. The parable of the so-called unjust or dishonest steward does not in fact contain any element of dishonesty or embezzlement. A person in the position of household steward (or tax-collector) did not receive a salary or wages. It was expected that they would charge commission on any transactions, and the extra amount would be theirs. The individual in the story was reported to the master, not for anything criminal, but for being extravagant or incompetent, and so was about to lose his livelihood. Thus, by reducing the bills, the steward was sacrificing his immediate remuneration for his long-term advantage: for this reason, the master was able to praise him, which he could hardly have done if there had been fraud involved. The steward was therefore more worldly-wise than dishonest, as the following comment about the children of this world being more astute in their dealings than the children of light makes clear. The message is that almsgiving, or we might call it giving to charity, will be like depositing savings for the next life. ■

REFLECT

Some people are unable to throw anything away: they fill their homes with all sorts of belongings which they never use, but with which they cannot bear to part. Part of the reason may be that they are sentimentally attached to an object which has special memories for them. But often, another reason is that it gives them a sense of security.

There are several parables in Luke's version of the Gospel which speak about accumulating wealth. As usual, the problem is not with money or possessions in themselves, but rather in the person's attitude towards them. Sometimes we hear people speaking about Mammon, as in "You cannot serve God and Mammon". Serve in this sense means worship, and the question is, where is the person's deepest focus, is it

on God or material possessions? Is our sense of security centred on God or on something else?

The reader of the Gospel is being urged to imitate the steward in the parable, who gives away his expected money rather than accumulate it; in this way, later on, his master's customers will remember with gratitude what he did for them and assist him when he finds himself in need of help. Sometimes Christians are accused of helping others for an ulterior motive: that they expect some sort of spiritual reward, rather than doing something simply because it is the right thing to do. Perhaps the parable could be asking us to look at ourselves and our lifestyle and to examine it in the light of the teachings of Jesus. Do we use money and natural resources prudently or wastefully? Can we let go of present practices for the sake of the long-term good of everyone? ■

LEARN

The steward is not dishonest: he is worldly-wise, or street-wise, he knows how the world works.

The steward was reported for being wasteful or incompetent: there is no suggestion that he was embezzling his master.

Stewards, like tax-collectors, were not paid a salary: they were expected to charge commission on official transactions and that provided their livelihood.

DO

When you go to the bank or the ATM, ask yourself, Where do I really find my sense of security? In God or somewhere else?



SAY

The person who is reliable in something little will be reliable in something more important (Luke 16:10)