

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Lectionary 28, Year B

Introduction

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ✠ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Blessed are the | poor in spirit,* for theirs is the king- | dom of heaven.
Alleluia. (Matt. 5:3)

Readings and Psalm

[Amos 5:6-7, 10-15](#)

Turn from injustice to the poor, that you may live

[Psalm 90:12-17](#)

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

[Hebrews 4:12-16](#)

Approach the throne of grace with boldness

[Mark 10:17-31](#)

Teaching on wealth and reward

Semicontinuous First Reading and Psalm

[Job 23:1-9, 16-17](#)

The Almighty hidden from Job's searching

[Psalm 22:1-15](#)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Ps. 22:1)

First Reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

⁶Seek the LORD and live,
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

¹²For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.

¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.

¹⁵Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Psalm: Psalm 90:12-17

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

¹²So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

¹³**Return, O LORD; how long | will you tarry?
Be gracious | to your servants. R**

¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love | in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad | all our days.

¹⁵**Make us glad as many days as you af- | flicted us
and as many years as we suf- | fered adversity.**

¹⁶Show your ser- | vants your works,
and your splendor | to their children.

¹⁷**May the graciousness of the Lord our God | be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; pros- | per our handiwork. R**

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Gospel: Mark 10:17-31

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.' " ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Semicontinuous First Reading: Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Having experienced much loss, Job longs to come into God's presence, where he can defend his own righteousness. Job cannot find God, but he never doubts that God exists and is in relationship with him. Job knows that he will come out of this time of testing refined like pure gold.

¹Job answered [his friend:]

²"Today also my complaint is bitter;
[God's] hand is heavy despite my groaning.

³Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
that I might come even to his dwelling!

⁴I would lay my case before him,
and fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵I would learn what he would answer me,
and understand what he would say to me.

⁶Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No; but he would give heed to me.

⁷There an upright person could reason with him,
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

⁸“If I go forward, he is not there;
or backward, I cannot perceive him;
⁹on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.
¹⁶God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me;
¹⁷If only I could vanish in darkness,
and thick darkness would cover my face!”

Semicontinuous Psalm: Psalm 22:1-15

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Ps. 22:1)

¹My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words | of my groaning?
²**My God, I cry out by day, but you | do not answer;
by night, but I | find no rest.**
³Yet you are the | Holy One,
enthroned on the prais- | es of Israel.
⁴**Our ancestors put their | trust in you,
they trusted, and you | rescued them. R**
⁵They cried out to you and | were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not | put to shame.
⁶**But as for me, I am a worm | and not human,
scorned by all and despised | by the people.**
⁷All who see me laugh | me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they | shake their heads.
⁸**“Trust in the LORD; let the | LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so de- | lights in him.” R**
⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth | from the womb,
and kept me safe on my | mother’s breast.
¹⁰**I have been entrusted to you ever since | I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my | mother’s womb.**
¹¹Be not far from me, for trou- | ble is near,
and there is no | one to help.
¹²**Many young bulls en- | circle me;
strong bulls of Ba- | shan surround me. R**
¹³They open wide their | jaws at me,
like a slashing and | roaring lion.
¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are | out of joint;
my heart within my breast is | melting wax.**
¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof | of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the | dust of death. **R**

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind (*local ministries may be named*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died (*especially*). Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.

Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Invitation to Communion

All who hunger and thirst, come.
The table is ready.

Prayer after Communion

Lord of life,
in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, died 1996 (TFF) Sunday, October 10, 2021

A native of Chicago, Kennard was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served in positions including Director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America.

Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582 Friday, October 15, 2021

A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.

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