

**TWENTY-FIFTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR C**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God,
make us faithful to you
in the small things as well as
the big things of life.
Do not let us pick and choose
when to be good,
but let us do and say
everything to please you.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both of our readings focus on the sin of greed. In the first reading, Amos, the prophet of social justice, has harsh words for those who, through greed, cheat the poor. In this passage we hear God's judgment on those who exploit the poor. "I will not forget what you have done."

The Gospel too presents us with the claims of God or money. The focus here is not on money itself, but how it is acquired and how it is used. The concluding line, "You cannot serve God and money at the same time," summarizes the teaching which speaks of honesty and trust in our dealings.

Wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be. God loves the poor and needy.

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos.

Amos said to the people,

"Listen to me,
you people who don't care about the poor,
you who oppress them.
When they buy your grain,
you lie about the price,
and you cheat them out of their money.
You make the poor pay more than they should
But God says to you,

'I see your sins,
and I will not forget what you have done!'"

The Word of the Lord.

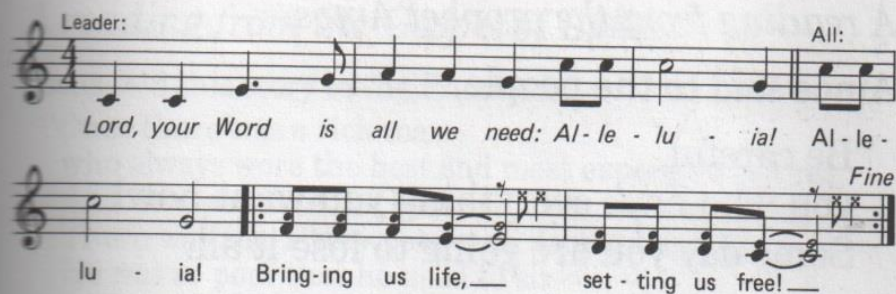
RESPONSE: Psalm 113

RESPONSE:

1. You love the poor, you love the need - y. —
2. Teach us to love the poor and need - y. —

1. You give them help, you care for them.
2. to give them help, to care for them.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



GOSPEL: Luke 16:10-13

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples,

“People who can be trusted with things
 that are not important
 can also be trusted with things
 that are important.

People who are not honest about little things
 are not honest about big things either.

If you cannot be trusted
 with the things in the world,
 how can you be trusted
 with the things God gives you?

“You know that people cannot work
 for two bosses at the same time.

They will always care more
 about one than the other
 and will work harder for one than the other.

“And it’s the same with you.

You cannot serve God and money
 at the same time.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

The last line of the first reading seems unlike the God of loving kindness and mercy. Last week we focused on God’s readiness to forgive, yet this week we hear, “I will not forget.” Help the children see that God’s anger is because the poor are being treated unjustly. God loves all people and will not tolerate the rich hurting the poor, then or now. Assure the children that the prophets preach like this to warn the people to change their ways. God is always ready to forgive when we change.

While we want to avoid moralizing with children, readings like today’s demand that we look at our lives and ask ourselves honest questions. We can do this gently with the children. Jesus says that people who are not honest about little things are not honest about big things either!

- Am I honest about little things?
 What are some examples of “little things”?

- Can others trust me?

What does Jesus mean when he says, “You cannot serve God and money”?

Help the children realize that having money is not wrong. “Serving money”—getting it in the wrong way and using it in the wrong way, being selfish with it—that’s wrong.