

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God, full of tenderness,
you look with special pity
on people
who are poor and weak.
We, too, want to help those
who cannot help themselves.
Make us able to recognize them,
and give us a share
in your power
so that we can make their lives
easier and happier.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both of our readings focus again this week on the evil of greed. And again this week, the first reading comes from the prophet Amos, who always calls us to justice, sometimes in rather harsh words. The focus here is not on having wealth, but again on the attitude one has toward it. Notice that the wealth of the people is coupled with a selfish attitude.

"You eat only the best; you live only to be amused. You have everything; you don't care about the nation."

The Gospel, too, focuses on greed and the misuse of goods. We have the same theme here as last week's first reading, the neglect of the poor by the rich. The rich man refused the basic needs of Lazarus, a poor beggar, whom he saw daily before his door. Again, the judgment seems harsh, but, as we saw last week, God will not

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos.

Amos said to the people,

"Be careful,
you who have everything you want now!
Some day you are going to lose it all.

"Be careful, you who have the best of everything
you who take life so easy,
you who eat only the most expensive food,
you who live only to have a good time.

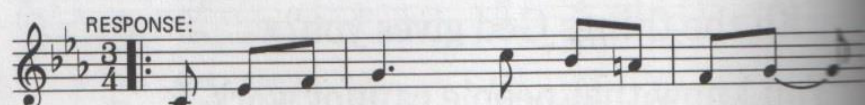
"You have everything,
but you don't care
that your nation is being destroyed.

"But you also will be destroyed.
Your enemies will take you first,
and all your expensive things
and your easy life will be lost!"

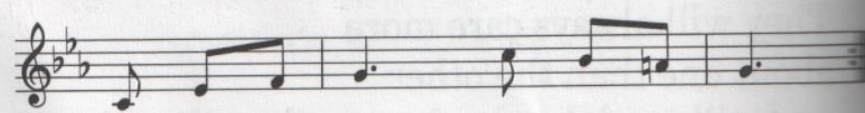
The Word of the Lord.

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:



"Wher - ev - er your treas - ure is, there will your heart be." Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL: *Luke 16:19-31*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Jesus told this story to the Pharisees:

"Once there was a rich man who always wore the best and most expensive clothes. And he always ate the best and most expensive food. There was also a very poor man named Lazarus. He was so poor that he used to sit outside the rich man's house and beg for food. He was even happy to eat the scraps from the rich man's dinner. This poor man, Lazarus, had sores on his skin, and the dogs used to come and lick them.

"When Lazarus died, the angels took him to be with Abraham in heaven, and Abraham welcomed him and took him in his arms. Later, the rich man died. But he went to a place called Hell, a place of great suffering. When he saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus with him, he called out,

'Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to come and bring me some cool water because I am suffering terribly.'

"But Abraham answered, 'Remember that when you were on earth, you had everything you wanted. You had the best of everything, and poor Lazarus had nothing. Now he is very happy, and you are suffering. 'But it is a long way between where you are, and where we are, and no one can cross from one side to the other.'

"Then the rich man said, 'Then please send Lazarus to warn my five brothers so that they won't come to this same place and suffer like me.'

"Abraham answered, 'Your brothers can read what Moses and the prophets wrote. They should learn from them.'

"But the rich man said, 'No, Abraham! They won't listen to them. But if someone who had died came back to them and warned them, then they would pay attention, and they would change their lives and stop sinning.'

"Finally Abraham said, 'No, if they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't even listen to someone who comes back from the dead.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

tolerate the exploitation of the poor.

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

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

After the first reading, ask the children questions like:

- Why was the prophet Amos angry with the people?
- How did they use their money?

It will help if the children realize that there were many poor people living in Jerusalem at the time Amos was writing. He was angry because people who said they believed in God did not care about the poor and did not share with them.

After the Gospel, ask the children to recall the Gospel.

- Who are the people involved?
- Why is the rich man unhappy? What does he ask?
- How does Abraham answer him?

Help the children see that God loves the poor and want us to share with them now. How can we do that? Do we know people who are poor or who are in need? Can we help? While concrete action is the genuine response to the needs of the poor, we must be careful to discuss this within the limits of little children. They are not responsible for the miseries of the world. But the Gospel invites us to examine our attitudes about the poor and about sharing. Guide the children along those lines.