

## THE READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET AMOS

Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria! Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Amos 6. 1a, 4–7

## THE PSALM

R/. I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

Praise the Lord, O my soul;  
while I live will I praise the Lord;  
as long as I have any being,  
I will sing praises to my God. R/.

Put not your trust in princes,  
nor in any human power,  
for there is no help in them.  
When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth;  
on that day all their thoughts perish. R/.

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea and all that is in them;  
who keeps his promise for ever. R/.

Who gives justice to those that | suffer wrong  
and bread to those who hunger.  
The Lord looses those that are bound;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. R/.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous;  
the Lord watches over the stranger in the land;  
he upholds the orphan and widow;  
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.  
The Lord shall reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. R/.

Psalm 146

#### THE READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO TIMOTHY

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time – he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen. As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

1 Timothy 6. 6–19

## THE READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE

Jesus told this parable to those among the Pharisees who loved money: 'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." The man who had been rich said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house – for I have five brothers – that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." Abraham said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Luke 16. 19–31