



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

18 September 2016

Sentence

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8.9

Collect

God of unexpected judgement,
finding grace in the devious and compromised:
free us from the certainty of having you in our grip
that a better wealth may flow our open hands,
through Jesus Christ, the Currency of Life. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos

Amos was active in the first half of the eight century BC. A farmer and herder from Judah in the south of the large territory Israel now had, he was scathing of the fraudulent and oppressive business practices of the rich towards the poor. Alas, his words are amazingly contemporary.

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
saying, 'When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practise deceit with false balances,
buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.'

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Amos 8.4-7

Reader For the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Psalm 113 APBA, page344

This song praises the God who reverses the fortunes of the poor and the barren.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy

Paul contrasts true and false teaching for Timothy to proclaim the truth and refute error. Paul puts all this in a letter in case he is delayed in getting to Timothy, his loyal 'child' in the faith.

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great:

He was revealed in flesh,
vindicated in spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among Gentiles,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will renounce the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared with a hot iron. They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer. If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed.

1 Timothy 3.14-4.6

Reader May your word live in us,
ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Lord says, 'No one can serve two masters;
you cannot serve God and wealth.'

ALL **Alleluia!**

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL **And also with you**

Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to St Luke

ALL **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

The culmination of this hard to comprehend story is in vv 8,9. The steward made good his dishonesty by forgoing his commission and thus gained favour with those who could help him. "Wealth' Gk mammon means 'that in which one fully trusts' – is that God or money for us?

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer." Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty." And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. 'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the

one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and wealth.*

Luke 16.1-13

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 6.1a, 4-7 Psalm 146 1 Tim 6.6-19 Luke 16.19-31

Prayer for the Week

Loving Father, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for him:

give us the will to be the servant of others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us,
and yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Lilian St John, Margaret Johnston,
Frank Cuttriss *Priest*, Ian Agnew, Arnold Williams, Beryl Sadleir,
Wilf Jennings, Amy Embling *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week

September 18 John Ramsden Wollaston, priest and missionary of
Western Australia (d. 1856.)

September 20 John Coleridge Patterson, first bishop of Melanesia,
martyred 1871.

September 21 Matthew, apostle, evangelist and martyr. Matthew
was a tax-collector for the Roman government and so despised, before
he became a disciple of Jesus. He is from the Jewish/Christian
community which wrote the Matthew gospel. His later history is
unknown but he is believed to have been martyred.

