

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

Fight the good fight of the faith!

Second Reading

Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor,
so that you by his poverty might become rich. *Gospel Acclamation*

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
in your unbounded mercy
you have revealed the beauty of your power
through your constant forgiveness of our sins.
May the power of this love be in our hearts
to bring your pardon and your kingdom to all we meet.
Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:
Amos 6: 1, 4-7; Psalm 145 (146); 1 Timothy 6: 11-16; Luke 16: 19-31



Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which
he looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which
he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which
he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which
he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth
but yours. *St Teresa of Avila*

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

© James Janknecht The Rich Man and Lazarus



PREGO LEAFLET

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C, 28th September 2025

'There was a rich man who was clothed
in purple and fine linen ...'

Today's readings remind us of the dangers of becoming complacent in the privileged lifestyles with which we are blessed. Just as the Lord shows compassion and love for all those who are in need, so must we, as people of faith, try to do the same.

The prophet Amos (**First Reading**) speaks to those who relish their lives in the lap of luxury. In the final reckoning, he foretells how they will be first to be exiled.

The **Psalm** is a hymn of praise to the Lord, whose compassion and love are showered upon those who are downtrodden or in need. Our faith demands that we must follow his example.

The **Second Reading** urges Timothy, and us, to live our lives with righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness. Jesus reiterates the message of Amos in the **Gospel**, warning of the torment that will face those with wealth and privilege who ignore the plight of the poor.

As **Pilgrims of Hope** in this Jubilee Year, we pray that we will be ever more attentive to the needs of those around us. We ask the Lord to help us see more clearly where we can use our gifts, and to respond with kindness and generosity.



Opening Prayer

O God, who manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us
and make those hastening to attain your promises
heirs to the treasures of heaven.

Psalm 145 (146)

R/. My soul give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
The Lord who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,
The Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
The Lord who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age.

I settle myself for my time of prayer in whatever way works best for me.
I notice how I am feeling, and pause to ponder what I might need from my prayer today.

When I feel ready, I turn to the psalm and read it a number of times.
If I can, I might do this out loud, or I may be reminded of a sung version.
I feel the rhythm of the words and let them enfold me.

As I read each line, perhaps I can pause, and bring to mind those in our world who are oppressed, hungry, blind or bowed down.
What prayer do I want to make for them today?

Returning to the text, I may like to ask myself how I follow the example of the Lord. How does the way I live my life 'give praise'? I ponder.

Are there opportunities in which I can perhaps better use my hands ... my voice ... my gifts ... to serve those in need?

I speak to the Lord about the feelings that arise within me as I reflect on this, aware that he is always by my side.

I ask for whatever grace or help I need to notice those times and places when the Lord is calling me.

I slowly bring my prayer to an end, perhaps taking the prayer of St Teresa of Avila on the back page as my guide.

Gospel Luke 16: 19–31

At that time: Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not do so, and none may cross from there to us." And he said, "Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house – for I have five brothers – so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment." But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them." And he said, "No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."'

As I settle, I try to set aside the busyness and distractions of today, perhaps by taking some long, slow breaths. I invite the Holy Spirit to guide me, as I turn to this familiar, if challenging, parable.

I read the text a number of times, and notice where my attention is particularly drawn.

Maybe I focus on Lazarus, and the misery of his life. I may turn, once again, to the words of the psalm to help me pray for those suffering in the world today.

Might it be that, like the rich man, I sometimes fail to see the need around me? I ponder.

Where do I see injustice and inequality? In what ways do I respond?
What more might the Lord be inviting me to do?

As I end my prayer, I take time to ponder the wealth of good things I have been given, and offer my thanks and praise to the Lord.