

## Here's a text if you only have a minute ...

Father, guide us, as you guide creation according to your law of love.

*Alternative Old Opening Prayer*

God wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth.

*Second Reading*

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord:

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

*Communion Antiphon*

Father in heaven,  
the perfection of justice is found in your love  
and all humankind is in need of your law.  
Help us find this love in each other  
that justice may be attained through obedience to your law.

*Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you want to reflect further  
Amos 8: 4-7; Psalm 112 (113); 1 Timothy 2: 1-8; Luke 16: 1-13



No one can serve two masters.  
Either you will hate the one  
and love the other,  
or you will be devoted to the one  
and despise the other.

Luke 16: 13

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**ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM**



Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year C, 18th September 2022

'Open our heart, O Lord,  
to accept the words of your Son!'

Gospel Acclamation

This week's readings highlight that God is Lord of the poor, the needy and the oppressed – as well as being the God of those in positions of power and authority. The readings also testify to these two sides of witnessing to our faith.

The prophet Amos gives a powerful message, fiercely condemning social injustice – and especially those who trample on and exploit the needy and impoverished. (**First Reading**)

Jesus, too, is unambiguous when it comes to the right use of money. Tainted as it is, money has a place in the life of believers. However, it should be used ethically for the greater good of all. (**Gospel**)

St Paul urges us to lives of prayer. We are to pray for all, including those in positions of political authority, for they have responsibility to care for the vulnerable in society and preserve the peace. God longs for a loving and truthful relationship with all people. (**Second Reading**)

Today's **Psalm**, a hymn of praise, glorifies God – in particular because of the care and compassion he shows for the poor and lowly.

This week, we pray for those who hold political and institutional power in our lands, that they may have the courage and integrity to use their power and influence to develop the kingdom of God here on earth.

We also continue to pray for the peace of the world, and for all who suffer, especially our many sisters and brothers living in abject poverty and powerlessness.



### Opening Prayer

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law  
upon love of you and of our neighbour,  
grant that, by keeping your precepts,  
we may merit to attain eternal life.

## Second Reading 1 Timothy 2: 1–8

**M**y advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and humankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the people to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

As St Paul encourages, I try to come ‘reverently’ and willingly to my time and place of prayer. In my own way, I gently turn my gaze in faith and love towards God, who dwells in the centre of my being. I take as long as I need ... I may even be drawn just to a time of quiet, silent prayer today.

When I am ready, I read St Paul’s advice slowly, a couple of times. I savour the words or phrases that draw me ... allowing the Word of God to enter into my heart, my senses, my being.

I may notice preoccupations that prevent me being truly present to God. Do I bring *anger or argument* ... or some other state of heart or mind that stops me hearing the voice of God in my innermost being? I speak to Christ Jesus and ask for his help.

In time I read again, slowly, with an open mind and heart. Perhaps I ponder my life of prayer... how it helps deepen my relationship with God ... whether through words, or through silence and contemplation. What grace do I need to live a life of faith and *full knowledge of the truth*?

I may sit in silent adoration for a while, allowing myself to feel the welcoming, loving gaze of God, who delights in me in all my frailty.

As I come to the end of my time of prayer, I offer prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving to my creator and Saviour.

## Gospel Luke 16: 1–13 (part)

**J**esus said to his disciples: ‘Those who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; those who are dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?’

‘No servant can be the slave of two masters: they will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.’

As I come to this time of prayer, I ask for God’s blessing. I may use my own words, or perhaps I pray, ‘Lord, I ask your blessing on my wounds and my distractions ... your blessing to help me become more deeply present to you in my prayer time, and more aware of you through this day.’

Once I have slowed down enough to allow God to speak to me, I read this challenging text slowly (whether this short extract or the full version). I take time to allow my faith to be nurtured through this contact with scripture and the teaching of Jesus.

As I read the passage again, perhaps I ponder what wise, prudent use of money and material possessions means in my own life. What is my relationship with money? Where is my attachment to it and where is my freedom?

I ask for the grace to deepen my self-awareness, and the personal freedom to make wise choices in the *great and little things* of my own life. I speak with Jesus about whatever feelings and insights arise.

I pray to wake up to the *genuine riches* that Christ is offering me today. Perhaps the courage to see my community, my church more clearly ...? or the humility to depend on and love God even more...? or the generosity to share all of my gifts more freely...? Or maybe there are other genuine riches the Lord desires to share with me. I reflect on whatever comes to my awareness.

I may end with a time of quiet contemplation, simply resting in the silent mystery of the Creator. I try to listen with tranquil attention ... yielding to God’s action and presence.

When ready, I slowly end my prayer, glorifying God.