

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

My soul give praise to the Lord.  
It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.

*Psalm*

As one dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious,  
filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. *Second Reading*

'If they will not listen either to Moses or the prophets, they will not  
be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.' *Gospel*

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

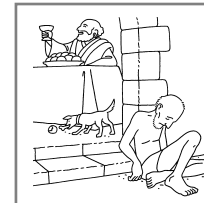


'Lord,  
when did we  
see you  
hungry?'

Matt 25: 44

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



Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year C, 25th September 2022

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever

Our faith in the Lord calls us to act with justice and integrity at all times.  
The readings this Sunday present a stark call to wake up from complacency  
and comfort, so that we may focus our lives on the Lord and respond with  
compassion and love to the needs of the poor.

The prophet Amos (**First Reading**) warns all those who revel in fine living  
and the safety of material things. Theirs is a false sense of security, and  
they have no care for those less fortunate than them.

In contrast, the **Psalm** sings of the faithfulness and justice of the Lord, who  
feeds the hungry, sets prisoners free, heals the wounded and comforts  
those who mourn.

In the **Second Reading** we are reminded to centre our lives on Christ, and in  
so doing be filled with faith, love, patience and gentleness.

The **Gospel** parable echoes the warnings of the prophet Amos, and here  
the powerful teaching of Jesus tackles head on the perennial challenge of  
wealth and poverty. The wisdom of the prophets speaks of an eternal truth  
that Jesus embodied in his Gospel values, actions and teaching. Jesus also  
speaks as a prophet: for some, the truth of his Gospel and Resurrection will  
not be enough for them to let go of their reliance on material wealth and  
security.

This week, let us pray for each other that we will have the  
grace and strength to remain centred on Christ. May our prayer  
life lead us to respond with compassionate action to the needs  
of our less fortunate sisters and brothers across the world.



### 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.

## Second Reading 1 Timothy 6: 11–16

**A**s one dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle.

Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who at the due time will be revealed  
by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all,  
the King of kings and the Lord of lords,  
who alone is immortal,  
whose home is in inaccessible light,  
whom no one has seen and no one is able to see:  
to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

As I come to my time and place of prayer, I look back over the past few days. Where have I noticed the presence of God in my life? Have there been times when I have felt distant from God? I bring all of these movements and moments of my life before the Lord, trusting in his transforming power.

Having settled my body and mind to pray, I read through the letter to Timothy slowly, several times. Perhaps I imagine that it has been written to me by a dear friend in the Lord, who wants to support me in my faith life. If there is a particular part of the letter that touches my heart, I make this the focus of my prayer. I re-read those words prayerfully and ask God for whatever help I may need.

Or maybe I imagine seeing myself filled with the gifts of the Spirit listed here: with *faith* ... with *love* ... with *patience* ... with *gentleness*.

If I visualise myself in this way, what do I notice about how I feel and respond to the needs of the world?

Where does the Lord want me to use the gifts he has given me?

I ask God, the source of all life, to fill me with awareness of his gifts, and for the grace I need to centre my life on them.

I draw my prayer to an end with a slow sign of the cross, offering my own words of thanks to the Lord.

## Gospel Luke 16: 19–31 (abridged)

**J**esus said to the Pharisees: ‘There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

‘In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, “Father Abraham, pity 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”. “My son,” Abraham replied, “remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony.’ ... The rich man answered, “Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father’s house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too.” “They have Moses and the prophets,” said Abraham, “let them listen to them.” “Ah no, father Abraham,” said the rich man, “but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent.” Then Abraham said to him, “If they will not listen either to Moses or the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.”’

As I settle for prayer, I trust that God is here, around me, within me, in every breath I take. I pause ... then focus my attention on my breathing, following each in and out breath, deepening my awareness of God’s life-giving presence.

When I am still enough for prayer, I read the Gospel passage slowly, a few times, until I become familiar with it.

I imagine hearing Jesus share this parable with me as if for the first time. What compassionate message does Jesus want me to hear?

What do I feel as I listen to his teaching?

Where do I see injustice in my own life, and how am I responding to it?

Is God inviting me to do more?

I talk to Jesus as I would to a trusted friend, and ask him for the grace to always act with justice and compassion in all that I do.

I close my prayer by praying with Jesus, *Our Father* ...