

Readings for Sunday, September 18

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵saying, "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 practice deceit with false balances,

⁶buying the poor for silver

and the needy for a pair of sandals,

and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Psalm: Psalm 113

¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants ¹ of the LORD;
praise the name ¹ of the LORD.

²**Let the name of the ¹ LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- ¹ evermore.**

³From the rising of the sun to its ¹ going down
let the name of the ¹ LORD be praised.

⁴**The LORD is high a- ¹ bove all nations;
God's glory a- ¹ bove the heavens. R**

⁵Who is like the ¹ LORD our God,
who sits en- ¹ throned on high,

⁶**but stoops ¹ to behold
the heavens ¹ and the earth?**

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out ¹ of the dust
and lifts up the poor ¹ from the ashes,

⁸**enthroning them ¹ with the rulers,
with the rulers ¹ of the people.**

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a ¹ childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. ¹ Hallelujah! **R**

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for rulers and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time.⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

¹Then 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. ²So the rich man summoned the manager and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then 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. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶The debtor answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷Then the manager asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' That debtor replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And 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. ⁹And 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.

¹⁰"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. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No 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."