



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

Children's Liturgy of the Word Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C confronts the danger of spiritual complacency and invites us to rediscover our true source of hope in Christ.

All the readings converge on a single moral: wealth and comfort are not sins, but they become spiritual traps when they detach us from God's mercy. The prophet's lament, the psalmist's praise, Paul's charge, and Jesus' parable each point to a God who "keeps faith forever" and "executes justice for the oppressed." Our Christian vocation is to let that divine justice shape our lives, turning any material blessing into a means of service.

May this Sunday inspire us to replace self-indulgence with a generous spirit, trusting that God "will give food to the hungry" and "will lift those who are bowed down." In doing so, we share in the eternal life promised by Christ.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Amos 6.1a, 4-7

*The carousing of those at ease will pass away:
they will head the line of exiles.*

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts: "Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria! Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David, improvise on instruments of music; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore, they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of those who lie in ease shall pass away."

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 146.6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10

R. Praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free. **R.**

The Lord opens the eyes of the blind
and lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous
and watches over the strangers. **R.**

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 6.11-16

*As you await our Lord's return in glory,
keep his commandments perfectly.*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

As for you, man of God, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time.

He is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

*You received good things, but Lazarus received evil:
now he is comforted, while you are in agony.*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus told this parable to those among the Pharisees who loved money:

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

"The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on 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.'

"But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us, a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.'

"The man who had been rich said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send Lazarus to my father's house— for I have five brothers— that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.'

He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Background

Amos 6.1a, 4-7. Amos was a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel. He addressed the elite of Samaria, who lived in luxury while neglecting the fate of the nation. The prophet's vivid images—ivory beds, feasting on lambs and calves, harp music—underscored a lifestyle of excess and indifference. His use of the word "alas" is a prophetic pronouncement of judgment: those who trust in material security will be the first to be exiled. Their lack of grief for Israel's suffering reveals a heart hardened by self-satisfaction, contrary to the covenant call to solidarity with the poor.

Psalms 146 is a hymn of thanksgiving that contrasts mortals' fleeting power with God's eternal faithfulness. The verses enumerate God's actions for the oppressed: creating the world, executing justice, feeding the hungry, freeing prisoners, opening the eyes of the blind, uplifting the bowed, and caring for strangers, orphans, and widows.

1 Timothy 6:11-16 addresses a community threatened by false teaching and the lure of wealth. After a brief digression on the duties of slaves, verses 11-16 constitute a personal charge to Timothy. The passage presents the Christian life as a battle against worldly temptations, anchored in the unchangeable reality of Christ's unapproachable light. The ultimate hope is Jesus Christ. The reading urges a radical detachment from wealth, a commitment to virtuous living, and a steadfast hope in Christ's future reign—mirroring the prophetic warning of Amos and the justice celebrated in Psalm 146.

Luke 16:19-31 Jesus tells a parable of a richly dressed man who lives in luxury and a poor beggar named Lazarus who suffers at his gate. After death, Lazarus is comforted beside Abraham, while the rich man endures torment in Hades. A great chasm separates the two realms, preventing any crossing. The parable illustrates the eternal consequences of indifference to the poor and the sufficiency of God's revealed word for salvation. It echoes Amos's condemnation of the complacent elite and the Psalm's affirmation of God's care for the needy. God calls us to live generously, seeing the poor as brothers in Christ, and to heed the Scriptures as the sole source of salvation, avoiding the complacency that leads to spiritual ruin.

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

Dismissal

Priest: Good morning! Today, we will hear how God calls us to share what we have and to love the poor, just as Jesus taught. We will listen to the Bible, and talk together about what it means for us.

When most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the place of the celebration. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the location of the celebration, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

Welcome

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may say the following prayer in these or similar words.

Let us pray:

Pause for 5 – 10 seconds

Dear God, help us understand your Word today. Open our minds and hearts to follow Jesus, even when it is difficult.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

ADAPTED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

FIRST READING

Amos 6.1a, 4-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

God says that when we are happy with our own things,
we must not forget that some children have no food or a safe place to sleep.
The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 146.6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10

R. God helps the poor!

God helps the poor;
he lifts the weak,
God is our help. **R.**

God gives us food and hears us speak.
God frees the captive.
God loves the meek. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 6.11-16

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

Try your best to please God and to be like him.
Be faithful, loving, dependable, and gentle.
Run the race of faith, be brave, be kind,
and love God with all your heart.
Don't be greedy; share what you have.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus told this story: "There was a rich man who wore expensive clothes and ate the best food every day. A poor man named Lazarus was brought to the rich man's house and was happy to eat the leftovers that fell from the man's table. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to heaven with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. He went to hell and was suffering terribly.

The rich man looked up and saw Abraham beside him, and said, 'Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to give me water, because I am very thirsty.'

But Abraham said, 'Friend, remember that during your lifetime you had everything good, and Lazarus had nothing good. But now he is happy here, and you are in pain. And besides, there is a deep ditch between us, so that no one can cross from you to us.'

The man who had been rich said, 'Then, send Lazarus to my father's house—for I have five brothers—to warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.'

Abraham replied, 'Your brothers can read what Moses and the prophets wrote. They should pay attention to that.' The rich man said, 'That's not enough! If only someone from the dead goes to them, they will listen and turn to God.'

Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen even to someone who comes back from the dead.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

What did you hear? Allow the children a few minutes to respond.

Let me tell you a story.

In the little town of Bella-Vita, there were two very different houses. The first house belonged to Mr. Rich, a man who wore nice clothes, ate sumptuous meals every day, and loved to sit on a big, comfortable chair while listening to music. The second house was a tiny, cracked house where Luca, a shy boy with a bright smile, lived with his mother. They had very little food, only a worn-out blanket, and a garden that barely gave enough vegetables for a single meal.

One sunny morning, Luca found a golden seed in the garden. He remembered that God always helps the poor. He decided to plant the seed in the town square, hoping it would become a tree that could feed many.

That same day, Mr. Rich invited all the townspeople to a grand banquet. He set a huge table and lots of food and desserts. While the guests laughed and ate, Luca stood at the gate, watching. He felt hungry, but he also felt something else—a wish to share.

When the banquet ended, Mr. Rich noticed the golden seed sprouting in the square. Curious, he walked over and saw Luca kneeling beside it, watering it with a small tin cup.

Luca looked up, his eyes shining. "Because the golden seed can become a tree that gives fruit to everyone, especially those who have nothing," he replied. "The Lord tells us to help the poor, just as he helps the hungry and the weak."

That night, a gentle wind whispered through the town. The golden seed grew fast, turning into a tall, leafy tree that bore sweet, golden apples. The next morning, the townspeople gathered under its shade. Luca's mother, the neighbour who had no bread, and even Mr. Rich's servants, all reached for the fruit.

Mr. Rich felt a strange warmth in his heart. He remembered the story Jesus told about a rich man who ignored a poor man named Lazarus at his gate, and later regretted it when he could not help anyone from beyond the grave. He realized he had been like that rich man, looking only at his own comfort.

From that day, Mr. Rich changed. He invited Luca and his mother to share his meals and helped repair their house. He also asked his servants to bring food to the town's poor every week. The golden-apple tree became a symbol of true riches—the love and generosity that God asks us to share.

The people of Bella-Vita learned that wealth is a gift to be used for others, just as the Psalm tells us that God opens his hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

True riches are not the gold in our pockets, but the love we give to those in need. When we share, we become like the golden-apple tree—spreading sweetness and shade to everyone around us.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition and conclude it with the cue for the response: we pray. All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

Leader: God hears the cry of the poor and calls us to live in charity. With trust, we bring our prayers before him. The response is: Lord, hear our prayer. All: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For the Church throughout the world: that we may listen to God's Word and reach out with compassion to the poor and forgotten. Let us pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For the leaders of nations and communities: that they may use God's wisdom to govern with justice, protecting the dignity of the poor, the hungry, and the vulnerable. Let us pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
3. For all who live in poverty or neglect, like Lazarus, that they may find hope, help, and dignity through our love and care. Let us pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
4. For the sick, the elderly, and those who are suffering – that they may feel God's comforting presence and receive the care they need. Let us pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
5. The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.

Leader: Heavenly Father, you are close to the brokenhearted and lift up those who are bowed down. Hear our prayers and help us to walk in the way of Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and think about what they have heard and are now doing. Be mindful of children having difficulty finding their families.

Liturgy adapted for Children.

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Acknowledgments:

LECTIONARY SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES

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