

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 28, 2025

Self-consumed by greed.

Hearing the cries of the poor.

Welcome Lazarus!

-rvb

The Lord hears the cry of the poor

"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table."

Quiz on world hunger.

1. How many people worldwide suffer from malnutrition?
2. How many people must survive on an annual income of \$50?
3. The affluent 30% of the world consumes about ____% of the food?
4. What percentage of the world's population consumes more than 87% of its output?
5. While the U.S. average protein intake is 96 grams per day, in Haiti it is ____grams?
6. Each U.S. citizen consumes on the average 1,850 pounds of grain per year, compared to ____pounds of grain per person in poor countries.
7. Some ____millions of all children under five years of age are suffering from protein-energy malnutrition.
8. At least ____thousand children go blind every year for lack of vitamin A.

9. In Bangladesh, more than ____% of the children never reach the age of six, due primarily to lack of protein.

10. Lack of clean water and proper sanitation affects over ____billion persons.

Answers according to Oxfam America: 1- One billion; 2 – 900 million; 3 – 50%; 4- 34%; 5- 40; 6- 400; 7- 100; 8 – 300,000; 9 – 40; 10 – 1 ½ billion. Challenge – We are called FAST = Fight Against Starvation Together).

Imagine that all the people of the world are represented by a “global village” of 100 people –

1. How many would be illiterate?
2. How many would have a college education?
3. How many would be financially comfortable?
4. How many would be considered in a lower economic level?
5. How many would suffer from hunger and malnutrition?
6. How many would be homeless or living in substandard housing?
7. How many would have no access to adequate, safe drinking water?
8. How many would live in countries where the annual income is less than \$600?
9. Of the 100, six would be citizens of the United States. What percentage of the entire income would they hold?

According to Oxfam America: 1-47; 2-1; 3-33; 4-67; 5-35; 6-50; 7-50; 8-55; 9-33).

“It is in Jesus that we live, more and have our being.” Acts 18:27.

Roger J. Vanden Busch

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Reading 1

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Thus says the LORD the God of hosts:

Woe to the complacent in Zion!

Lying upon beds of ivory,

stretched comfortably on their couches,

they eat lambs taken from the flock,

and calves from the stall!

Improvising to the music of the harp,

like David, they devise their own accompaniment.

They drink wine from bowls

and anoint themselves with the best oils;

yet they are not made ill by the collapse of Joseph!

Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile,

and their wanton revelry shall be done away with.

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

In the reading from Amos, a moral judgment is clearly and emphatically pronounced by Amos against the nobles and leaders of the people who had been and are guilty of reckless ease and indifference to the well-being of marginal people in their lives and for the salvation of their country. Amos does not mince words, condemning the rich for their lack of social justice. They satisfied and stuffed themselves with the fat of lambs and calves out of the stalls. They babble drinking songs as they gulp their wine from the large sacrificial bowls. They are given over to the vanities and vulgarities of

the world, the follies of fashion, and the pride and power of their riches. Soon, they will meet their Waterloo! “Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile, and their wanton revelry shall be done away with.” Amos’ curse upon the heads of the indifferent, greedy, and callous leaders cuts like a sharp knife. They show no concern about the imminent disaster to befall their land.

Their indifference, selfish attitude and opulent lifestyle would well align with the recent comments of a news commentator:

A recent news caster (who later apologized) suggested “jailing homeless people and calling for involuntary lethal injection for homeless people, saying ‘just kill them.’” The newscaster is still employed. -Internet. Is this where we (all of us) are as a society? Are extremists suggesting that the solution to homelessness is to have the state kill the unhoused? Our nation is experiencing a spike in homelessness, driven by our nation’s housing affordability crisis and the dismantling of our social safety net. People with disabilities, children, and older adults, including veterans, are disproportionately experiencing homelessness. Let us rid the undesirables from society, and we can save millions on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. There is nothing so sweet as cleansing society of its unwanted.

Responsorial Psalm

[Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10](#)

R. (1b) Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

**Blessed is he who keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.**

The LORD sets captives free.

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

**The LORD gives sight to the blind;
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.**

**The LORD loves the just;
the LORD protects strangers.**

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

**The fatherless and the widow he sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.**

**The LORD shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.**

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

Reading 2

[1 Timothy 6:11-16](#)

**But you, man of God, pursue righteousness,
devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.
Compete well for the faith.**

**Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called
when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses.
I charge you before God, who gives life to all things,**

and before Christ Jesus,
who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate for the noble confession,
to keep the commandment without stain or reproach
until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ
that the blessed and only ruler
will make manifest at the proper time,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light,
and whom no human being has seen or can see.
To him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

In this reading from Timothy, he challenges us to live the virtuous life (integrity, piety, faith, love, steadfastness, and a generous and gentle spirit). We are to fight the good fight of faith, being true to our baptismal commitment, and living a life of witness to Jesus Christ in the “presence of many witnesses.” Unlike the characters in the first reading and the Gospel who are indifferent, selfish, insensitive to those who have less and make no effort to help, is what moved Eleanor Boyer, lottery winner, to make her newfound wealth a gift to everyone but herself, donating the \$8 million or so, after taxes, to her church and her town. “God takes care of me,” declared Boyer, a 73-year-old, never-married retiree who prides herself on her self-reliance and her unshakable faith.

Although the donation stunned the congregation at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, and a community where the locals are kind enough to nod and smile at strangers, theologians said Boyer's gift should not surprise Christians who have faith. "We are constantly being called during the course of life to let go and to trust in God," said Monsignor David Lee of the Buffalo diocese. "In her heart, she is answering the call, to share what we have with those who are in need."

-Internet.

Alleluia

[Cf. 2 Corinthians 8:9](#)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Though our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, he became poor,
so that by his poverty you might become rich.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

[Luke 16:19-31](#)

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

"There was a **rich man** who dressed in purple garments and fine linen
and dined sumptuously each day.

And lying at his door was a **poor man named Lazarus**, covered with sores,
who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps
that fell from the rich man's table.

Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.

When the poor man died,

he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham.

The rich man also died and was buried,

and from the netherworld, where he was in torment,

he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off

and Lazarus at his side.

And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me.

**Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue,
for I am suffering torment in these flames.'**

Abraham replied,

'My child, remember that you received

what was good during your lifetime

while Lazarus likewise received what was bad;

but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.

Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established
to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go
from our side to yours or from your side to ours.'

He said, 'Then I beg you, father,

send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers,

so that he may warn them,

lest they too come to this place of torment.'

But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets.

Let them listen to them.'

He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham,

but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets,
neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

In the Gospel of Luke, Eleanor shares with the Lazarus in her life as opposed to the rich man who is haunted in the afterlife by his blindness and indifference to the plight of Lazarus. Jesus relates this parable found exclusively in Luke. It emphasizes that the law is understood better and lived more faithfully by the "poor and lowly" than by the greedy, haughty, and self-righteous Pharisees. Those who have little, often give away much while those who have much give away very little.

Here is another story about Lynn Mastey who feeds the homeless at St. John's Park in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Story by Kristyn Allen.

GREEN BAY, Wis. (WBAY) - St. John's Park in downtown Green Bay is known for being an area where a considerable number of homeless people stay during the day and even sleep overnight.

While many people might shy away from going near the park, one woman and her volunteers go there twice a week to deliver food.

It started in 2020 when Lynn Mastey taught summer camp and her classroom faced near Jackson Square, and she saw homeless people. She also saw all of the food the kids she worked with weren't eating, so she started taking it to these parks.

That's how what's now called "Feed the Park People" got started.

Volunteers go to St. John's Park on Wednesdays and Sundays to deliver pizza and any other food donations.

The founder of the organization says she couldn't stand by and do nothing.

"I definitely felt called to do something about it," Mastey said. "From seeing outside my classroom window, the people that were homeless in Jackson Square, I just feel like human beings are supposed to eat. How is it OK to throw food in the dumpster and make homeless people go dig for it?"

Feed the Park People work with Pizza Ranch, paying a nominal cost for pizza left over from its buffets.

During the summer, cases of water are often distributed or gift certificates to the nearby A&W.

"Especially the months that the shelters are closed because the weather is nicer, they still need to eat," Mastey said. "They can't go to the shelters and eat and stay there when the shelters are closed, so

even though the weather is better than it is in winter they still need to eat to survive.”

If you’d like to help with Feed the Park People’s mission, monetary donations are accepted at the Pizza Ranch locations on Green Bay’s east side and in Ashwaubenon.

You can also donate non-perishable food items at a drop box at the BMO Bank at 2700 S. Oneida St. in Ashwaubenon.

The rich man does not hear the “cry of the poor.” Luke portrays him as an insensitive and greedy man who dies while Lazarus lives on in total and complete happiness. Lazarus has a name, an identity, whereas, the rich man is not identified by name. He is nothing in his place of torment, lacking identity and fulfillment. The poor are exalted while the rich are humbled. The rich man makes no attempt to change. He has no insight into himself and continues to wallow in his self-righteousness. Near the end of the reading the rich man’s conscience is awakened. He wants to warn his five brothers to reach out in love and compassion. Unless they repent, heaven will be transformed into a living hell of nothingness and despair. What will they choose, and will they listen to the prophets?

Final prayer: “Let me not ruthlessly hurt any creature of yours. Let me take thought also for the welfare of little children, and of those who are sick, disabled, and of the poor, remembering that what I do unto the least of these, I do unto Jesus Christ.” -John Baillie.
