

# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY

## AFTER PENTECOST

### 18 SEPTEMBER 2016

*These readings are provided, first, so you can re-read and reflect on them during the week, and second, if you wish, to follow the readings during the service.*

#### **Amos 8.4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup> saying, '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 practise deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.'

<sup>7</sup> The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

#### **Psalm 113**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, O sing praises, you that  
are his servants:

O praise the name of the Lord.

<sup>2</sup> Let the name of the Lord be blessed:  
from this time forward and for ever.

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its going  
down:

let the name of the Lord be praised.

<sup>4</sup> The Lord is exalted over all the nations:  
and his glory is above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> Who can be likened to the Lord our God:  
in heaven or upon the earth,

<sup>6</sup> Who has his dwelling so high:  
yet condescends to look on things  
beneath?

<sup>7</sup> He raises the lowly from the dust:  
and lifts the poor from out of the  
dungheap;

<sup>8</sup> He gives them a place among the princes:  
even among the princes of his people.

<sup>9</sup> He causes the barren woman to keep  
house:

and makes her a joyful mother of  
children.

Praise the Lord.

## 1 Timothy 2.1-10

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone,

<sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.

<sup>3</sup> This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour,

<sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time.

<sup>7</sup> For 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.

<sup>8</sup> I desire, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument;

<sup>9</sup> also that the women should dress themselves modestly and decently in suitable clothing, not with their hair braided, or with gold, pearls, or expensive clothes,

<sup>10</sup> but with good works, as is proper for women who profess reverence for God.

## Luke 16.1-13

<sup>1</sup> Then 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. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer." <sup>3</sup> Then 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. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people

may welcome me into their homes." <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" <sup>6</sup> He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty." <sup>8</sup> And 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. <sup>9</sup> And 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. <sup>10</sup> '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. <sup>11</sup> If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No 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.'

