

First Lesson

Proverbs [25:6-7]

The reader is warned not to think too highly of him- or herself, practicing humility, which is more likely to breed honor.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs:

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;

for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 112

- ¹ Happy are they who fear God, *
and have great delight in the commandments!
- ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blest.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.
- ⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- ⁶ For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in God.
- ⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
- ¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

The Epistle

Hebrews [13:1-8, 15-16]

God will provide for every need, so Christians should spend their energy providing for the needs and comforts of others.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord.