

First Lesson

Amos 6:1a,4-7

To enjoy the riches of God's creation is good and joyful, to greedily consume and waste God's beauty is sinful; the prophet Amos warns those who fritter away God's good creation.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos:

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 the loungers shall pass away.

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 146 (8:00 said in unison; 10:00 sung by all)

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul! *

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have
my being.

² Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *

for there is no help in them.

³ When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *

and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁴ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁵ Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *

who keeps his promise for ever;

⁶ Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *

and food to those who hunger.

⁷ The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

⁸ The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; *

he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

† ⁹ The LORD shall reign for ever, *

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Hallelujah!

The Epistle

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Timothy, and all readers, are urged to lives of virtue and holiness for the glory of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy:

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, 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 who 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 honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The Word of the Lord.