

There is a steep tax of destruction and darkness for those who insist on putting profit before love of God and neighbor.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos: 8:4-70

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
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 practice deceit with false balances,
buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 113 (*8am spoken, 10am sung*)

¹ Hallelujah!

Give praise, you servants of the LORD; *
praise the Name of the LORD.

² Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, *
from this time forth for evermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to its going down *
let the Name of the LORD be praised.

⁴ The LORD is high above all nations, *
and his glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high *
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

⁶ He takes up the weak out of the dust *
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.

⁷ He sets them with the princes, *
with the princes of his people.

⁸ He makes the woman of a childless house *
to be a joyful mother of children.

The key to faithful Christian life is prayer — individual, communal, intercessory, in admission, in praise and jubilation — at all times and in all circumstances, all through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy: 2:1-7

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all -- this was attested at the right time. 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.

The Word of the Lord.