

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY
September 18, 2022
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-8 (The Message)

Listen to this, you who walk all over the weak,
you who treat poor people as less than nothing,
Who say, "When's my next paycheck coming
so I can go out and live it up?
How long till the weekend
when I can go out and have a good time?"
Who give little and take much,
and never do an honest day's work.
You exploit the poor, using them—
and then, when they're used up, you discard them.
God swears against the arrogance of Jacob:
"I'm keeping track of their every last sin."
God's oath will shake earth's foundations,
dissolve the whole world into tears.
God's oath will sweep in like a river that rises,
flooding houses and lands,
And then recedes,
leaving behind a sea of mud.

PSALM: Psalm 113

- 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 forevermore.
- 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;
God's glory above the heavens.
- 5 Who is like the Lord our God,
who sits enthroned on high,
- 6 but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?

7 The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,
8 enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.
9 The Lord makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

GOSPEL: Luke 16: 1-13

1 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. 2 So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' 3 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. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' 7 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.' 8 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. 9 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.

10 "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. 11 If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13 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."