



Liturgy Cycle C

# Twenty-Sixth Sunday Of The Year

## Rich Man, Poor Man

### **Introduction**

In today's Gospel we have a story about a rich man who feasted sumptuously every day and refused to share even the crumbs from his table with a starving beggar at his gate. Try to picture the scene. We are all tainted with selfishness. We don't find it easy to share our possessions with others. We find it even harder to share ourselves with them. But we are all beggars before God. We need his forgiveness especially for our refusal to share. Let us ask for this forgiveness.

### **First Reading (Amos 6:1, 4-7)**

Amos speaks to the wealthy of both Judah and Israel. Their crime is that they could not care less for the plight of the poor. Besides, their conduct will bring ruin on the whole nation.

### **Second Reading (1 Tim 6:11-16)**

As Jesus was faithful to his call in face of an hostility that led to his death, so Christians facing persecution should be faithful to God's call.

### **Gospel (Luke 16:19-31)**

This contains Jesus' famous parable of the rich man and the beggarman.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

Let us pray to the Lord that he may teach us what real poverty and real riches are in his eyes.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the followers of Jesus: that they may see that it is a very great poverty not to be able to share with others. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the rich and the powerful: that God may touch their hearts, changing them from stones into flesh and blood. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the poor who sit patiently at the closed door of life's banquet, waiting for someone to invite them inside. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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**That we may realise that we are truly rich in the eyes of God when we are able to show mercy and compassion, understanding and forgiveness to others. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**It's not easy to convert the rich,  
It's like this.**

**The more people have,  
the more they have to lose.  
The more they have to lose,  
the more fearful they become.  
The more fearful they become,  
the more defensive they get.  
The more defensive they get,  
the more they cut themselves off.  
The more they cut themselves off,  
the more closed they get.  
The result is that they end up with a withered heart.  
And it's impossible to breathe life into a withered heart.**

**To close one's heart is to begin to die.  
To open one's heart is to begin to live.**

**At the end of the day it's not what we carry  
in our purses or bank accounts that matters.  
It's what we carry in our hearts.  
That is where the rich man was found wanting.**

**Poverty of heart is the worst form of poverty.**