

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 10:17-22

We often mistakenly think that the one with the most stuff is the most blessed by God. This is called: "theology of glory." But very often your stuff, will get in the way of your relationship with God. A young man, who had trust in God based on his stuff, attempted to clarify from Jesus that he was in fact, righteous. Jesus reminded the man, that as believers, we are only managers not owners of our stuff. The young man should have freed himself of the burden of management and followed Jesus. Sadly, the young man's sin stood in the way of true righteousness. His theology of glory conflicted with trusting only in Jesus as the source of his salvation. This ties in nicely with Amos and Hebrews. Give up your sinful ways and follow after Jesus for salvation.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑩ Heavenly Father, we ask that You fill us with Your Holy Spirit, so that we have a full understanding of Your Word and will, and so that we have the power to walk faithfully in obedience and love to You. Enlighten our minds, that we are safe from evil and foolish acts, instead acting as the vessels of the good works You would accomplish through our presence in the world. Transform our hearts so that we find our joy in worship of You, communion with our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the fellowship with these Your people.

Exert Your Sovereign authority over all the Earth Bring all rulers into obedience to Your unchanging Word. End all tyranny and oppression, banish the love of war the lust for power and the worship of false gods. We especially pray for this our country. Bring to these people the esteem of honor, truth, purity, true religion and works of faith. Endow our leaders with good counsel, sound judgment and sure knowledge, so that we may be preserved from all our enemies both within and without, and live to serve You and all others with patience and accord.

Grant to all who are; in sickness or sorrow, tribulation or danger, who have suffered disappointment or injustice, an increase in faith and love. Keep them in Your mighty hand, and deliver them as they have need. As you bring them safely, from all of their affliction and woes let their hymns of praise rise to Your praise and glory.

We pray also for Your Holy Church, O Father divine. Furnish us with such grace that we are ready to sacrifice for Your cause and put such faithfulness to Your Word, that we never waver in our Holy calling. Give repentance to all Your people. Lay on them such faith, assurance and love that we are able to open the hearts of all who seek Your Gospel.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)
Keep us ever with our Savior, in Whose name we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER TWENTY-THREE

Chant Tone



XI C: Ionian

Introit

Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man
who | fears the Lord,*

who greatly delights in His
com—mandments!

Wealth and riches are | in his house,*
and his righteousness endures
for—ever.

Light dawns in the darkness for the
—upright;*
he is gracious, merciful, and
—righteous.

It is well with the man who deals
generous | ly and lends;*

who conducts his affairs with
—justice.

For the righteous will nev | er be moved;*
he will be remembered for —ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy —Spirit;
as it was in the be —ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. —Amen.

Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man
who | fears the Lord,*
who greatly delights in His
com—mandments!

(Antiphon, Psalm 112:1;
Psalm 112:3-6)

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, Whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us to forsake all trust in earthly gain and to find in You our heavenly treasure; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

For He will command His angels con | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.

Bless the Lord, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless His | holy name!

(Psalm 91:11, 103:1)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O Lord God, shepherd of our souls and supplier of all our needs, we, the people of Your pasture, come before You with hearts filled with gratitude and praise. For leading us into the green pastures of Your Word, we give You thanks. For leading us beside the still waters of Your Love and mercy, we are most grateful. For restoring our souls with the righteousness of Your Son Jesus Christ, we bring You our praise. For making it possible for us to walk through the valley of the shadow of death without fear, we adore Your most Holy name. Grant us Your Holy Spirit and make us content with what You provided us from Your abundance. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

AFTER THE HARVEST COMES THE HARVEST FESTIVAL (the Octoberfest.) Some people in this vast country of ours are getting ready for winter. The farming communities are bringing in the harvest, anticipating the time when nothing grows. We approach the end of our Church Year, and we are reminded that the end of all time is drawing near. There is a harvest of souls who need the message of the Gospel. Be a worker in the harvest. Present yourself as a willing worker and God will fulfill His work of the proclamation of the Gospel to the world. Together with Him we, will find those who need the salvation offered through the Gospel.

THEME OF THE DAY

Following Jesus

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 112:1;) Psalm 112:3-6

Psalm 112 is an acrostic poem (each line begins with the successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.) It, along with 111 and 113 are titled, "Hallelujah," (translated that is, "Praise the Lord.") Psalm 112 comments on the last verse of Psalm 111, we gain our wisdom from our love of God. The verses chosen speak of (1) righteousness, (3) prosperity, (4) comfort, (5) wisdom, and (6) honor. We don't use the verses that speak of the misery of the wicked. "Following Jesus is righteousness," is in today's theme.

COLLECT

This Collect, written for our 2006 revision to the Propers, sounds a bit like the historic Collect for Trinity 16. It fits our lessons in that we ask God to insure that we don't trust in our built up earthly treasure for our future, but in fact rely on Jesus Christ and His life as our assurance.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos lived during the history recorded in 2 Kings 14–15/2 Chronicles 26. Though he was of the tribe of Judah, he did his work among the Northern areas (Bethel.) God sent Amos to warn the 10 Northern Tribes that they were falling into apostasy. He was opposed in his work by Amaziah the priest of Bethel. In this section he reminded the people of the enormity of the power of God, in that He made the stars, and then Amos, enumerated their many sins. This message from God ends with the exhortation to: "hate evil, and love good," These people had forgotten the God of their fathers and would eventually be abandoned by God for their unbelief.

GRADUAL—Psalm 91:11, 103:1

Both of these Psalms were written by David. The use of the Gradual, follows an ancient pattern which changes with the festival. This week our Gradual complements the, "Following Jesus, theme in that we bless His Holy name for the work of our salvation. We have one more week for these two verses before we move on.

EPISTLE LESSON—Hebrews 3:12-19

I am convinced that the book of Hebrews was written by Luke, the same man who wrote Luke's Gospel and the book of Acts. While I am in good company among the commentators with this understanding, I lack the credentials to assert it as fact. The Epistle lessons tend to have a life of their own among the readings. From Proper 22 through 28 we read from the book of Hebrews. Today, the Epistle Lesson is very much like the lesson from Amos. The NIV even titles this, "Warning Against Unbelief." The author is speaking of the Israelites in the wilderness but it still fits nicely to the theme of, "Following Jesus."