



CELEBRATING AT HOME

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Fortunes reversed (Luke 16:19-31)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church
in this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,

you raise up those who are bowed down.

Lord Jesus,

you teach the way of justice.

Lord Jesus,

you are rich in mercy.

Scripture Reading (*Luke 16:19-31*)

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. At his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked the sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a stop any crossing from your side to ours."

The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them."

"Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

Reflection - *Fortunes reversed*

The story Jesus tells in the Gospel is about a rich man, his five brothers and a poor man, and how their fortunes get reversed.

The rich man does nothing particularly evil. He lives like a rich man, dresses like a rich man and dines like a rich man. But he does not see the poor man sitting at his door. He does not even notice him.

The story is told against the background belief that riches were a sign of God's blessing. By the time of Jesus, the teaching of the prophets that blessing brings responsibility seems to have been forgotten.

So the story asks the hearers: will they follow the example of the rich man or heed Jesus' teaching (and that of the prophets) about the care of the needy and prove themselves true children of Abraham and take their place at the eternal banquet?

Injustice and greed breed violence and often result in the exploitation of the poor. As Pope Paul VI once said, "If you want peace, work for justice".

We are not called to hoard God's blessings, but to be distributors of them so that all have a fair share of this world's goods and can live with dignity and respect.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, help the whole Church speak to the hungers of the world

with words and deeds of life-giving care.

Help us to work diligently to close the gap between rich and poor

so that all may share in your goodness.

Help us to be strength in weakness,

comfort in anxiety and hope for the future.

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Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

God, you are always gracious to us.
May we respond to your love
and become a living source of healing
for our world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God be among us,
and remain with us for ever.
Amen.



Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.



The Carmelites
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