

Sermon, September 18, 2022, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost—Trinity Lutheran Church—Pastor Peter Saie.

**Text: Amos 8:4-7; PSALM 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-15; Luke 16:1-15.**

**Grace, Mercy, and Peace through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Amen.**

**Theme:** “Jesus Christ, the Master of Eternal Life.”

**Introduction: In our Old Testament lesson**, the Lord God spoke through the minor-prophet Amos, the name meaning, “burden bearer.” Although business was booming and boundaries were bulging in Israel at that time of his calling, the sins of the children of Israel were numerous: Idol worship, self-righteousness, deceit, arrogance, greed, materialism, oppression of the poor, and etc.. For Israel had broken every aspect of their covenant relationship with God, yet His grace prevailed. God’s warning came through Amos to the corrupt leaders of Israel who took advantage of the poor and needy; how their businessmen carried out corrupt practices in dealing with the poor and needy; how they misbalanced their scales to gain more grains from the poor for their money and care less about them, and God said to them, **“4 Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, 5 saying, “When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?”—skimping on the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, 6 buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat. 7 The Lord has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob: “I will never forget anything they have done.”**

For the name “**Israel**,” was given to Jacob by the Lord Himself that God will be his God forever, and this is the pride of all Israelites, yet they turned their backs on the Lord to worship the false god of money and wealth.

But on the other hand, the Psalmist declares the glory and praises of the Lord God, saying, **“Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of**

the Lord, **\*\*praise the name of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> Blessed be the name of the Lord **\*\*from this time forth and forevermore!****

**<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
\*\*the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

**<sup>4</sup> The Lord is high above all nations,  
\*\*and his glory above the heavens!**

**<sup>5</sup> Who is like the Lord our God,  
\*\*who is seated on high,**

**<sup>6</sup> who looks far down  
\*\*on the heavens and the earth?**

**<sup>7</sup> He raises the poor from the dust  
\*\*and lifts the needy from the ash heap,**

**<sup>8</sup> to make them sit with princes,  
\*\*with the princes of his people...”**

Oh yes! God's grace through Christ's bitter suffering and death on the cross has raised us from the dust and the ashes of the earth, because we have been washed through the water of our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection; which has made us cleansed to sit with the Prince of Peace, when he shall return.

Therefore, the Apostle Paul urges Timothy, his spiritual son, saying, **“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all men – the testimony given in its proper time...”**

**In other words**, that we should constantly pray for everyone, both Christians, or non-Christians alike and for our authority that they will acknowledge the true peace which comes through our Lord, the mediator between us and God and be saved.

**In our Gospel lesson**, Jesus tells us the parable about the master and his clever manager who used his human wisdom to settle the dispute between him and his master. And Christ encouraged His disciples to focus on Him alone who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. For the world has its own

master, the devil, who uses the love for money to steal, kill, and destroy, but we have “**Master Jesus**” who has come to give us life more abundantly. For Jesus is the master of eternal life, and he has chosen you and me by God’s grace through faith in His Son.

May the peace of God which passes all human understanding guide our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Amen + .