

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 112)

ANTIPHON: Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

RESPONSE: Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

or

Alleluia!

LECTOR: Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord! May the name of the Lord be blessed both now and for evermore! **R.**

LECTOR: High above all nations is the Lord, above the heavens his glory. Who is like the Lord, our God, who has risen on high to his throne yet stoops from the heights to look down, to look down upon heaven and earth? **R.**

LECTOR: From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the dunghheap he raises the poor to set him in the company of princes, yes, with the princes of his people. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Or

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

TODAY'S READINGS Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13

NEXT WEEK (26th Sunday of Year C) Amos 6:1, 4-7; Psalm 145; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31

*Brighten up
your day with
The Majellan*

St Gerard's Feast Day Blessing

Join us online in celebration for St Gerard Majella's feast day on Sunday October 16. St Gerard was born on April 6, 1726, in Muro Lucano, in Southern Italy. He desperately wanted to serve God but was twice rejected by the Capuchin order because of his sickly health. He was finally accepted by the Redemptorists as a lay brother. Saint Gerard died of tuberculosis at the age of 29. His intercession is sought for children, unborn children, women in childbirth, mothers, expectant mothers, motherhood, the falsely accused, good confessions and lay brothers. To receive the program and prayer card and register your prayer intention go to www.majellan.media/your-prayers

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No place for greed in God's world



Human nature doesn't seem to change very much. Writing some 750 years before the coming of Christ, the prophet Amos is complaining about the rich and powerful exploiting the poor and oppressed.

In Amos' time, Israel had become quite a wealthy nation but, as in much of the world today, corruption and greed meant resources were not equally shared among the ordinary people.

As we know, the Church itself is not immune from corruption. As disciples of Jesus, we are called upon to challenge all non-Gospel values whether in the Church or society at large. Going back to Pope Leo XIII (Rerum Novarum 1891), the Church expounds fundamental principles of social justice including dignified working conditions, just wages, the right of workers' associations (trade unions) and private property, and defence of the poor.

While rejecting communism outright, the document is also critical of unbridled capitalism. Every human society needs to be founded on the dignity of the human person, the common good, and principles of justice and subsidiarity. Pope Francis speaks more directly about the need for the Church itself to be an agent of social transformation by being "a church that is poor and for the poor". In a manner reminiscent of Jesus in today's gospel, Francis tells us "the judgment of the needy, the outcast and the poor prefigures the judgment of God." He also connects the Church's call to poverty with Francis of Assisi "the man of peace who

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loves and protects creation".

Pope Francis speaks of the inseparable bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. Furthermore, he directly links human greed with the breakdown of human community, increase in world tensions, and destruction of the environment.

Calling for a "global ecological conversion," Pope Francis states that "everything is connected" including the worth of a poor person, the stranger, the refugee, and the cry of nature. He adds that "communion with nature is impossible without tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings".

In other words, we are called to a spiritual awakening to the reality that human life is grounded in three intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself. While Pope Francis is bold enough to address his writings to "every living person on this planet," he is also calling on the Church to become a more genuine and authentic community of Jesus' disciples.

In Jesus' words let us become more "trustworthy" in the manner we use our resources – money, talents and time – for building up the kingdom of God on earth, rather than building up kingdoms of power and wealth for ourselves. In the words of another parable, let us become "trustworthy servants" who use our gifts in the service of others and as active stewards of God's creation.