



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
September 21, 2025

God or Mammon?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Jesus tells a story that might sound confusing to us because it reflects economic practices of his time, not ours. His original audience likely recognized the situation as one that was familiar to them. In the story, an employee fails to oversee and enhance the material holdings of his employer. However, when it came to getting what he could for himself from the employer's assets, he shows remarkable ability. One might say, "Good for him!" Even the employer thought the employee's actions showed resourcefulness.

Jesus does not applaud the specifics of the man's behavior, acceptable or not, as the case may have been. Rather, he notes that the man used whatever was available to him to ensure his own comfort in the future. Jesus then states that the ingenuity of such a man is more noteworthy than that of children of light. What a condemnation!

Jesus goes on to condemn mammon. Just what is that? It is too easy to say that mammon is money, though money is part of it. A good definition is "the greedy pursuit of gain." This could be any kind of gain over others when we make that gain the primary value in our lives. The story shows that the employee was amazingly industrious in his pursuit. In comparison, the children of light (you and me?) too often fail to demonstrate comparable industry in pursuing the true wealth of which Jesus spoke. Once again, a choice is placed before us: God or mammon? †



Are we guilty of choosing mammon: "the greedy pursuit of gain"?

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

I would like that our first great desire be for a *united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world.* [We see] too much discord, too many wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the fear of difference, and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth's resources and marginalizes the poorest.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025



Sunday Readings

Amos 8:4–7

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Never will I forget a thing they have done!

1 Timothy 2:1–8

I ask that...prayers...be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life.

Luke 16:1–13 or 16:10–13

The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What is the driving pursuit of my life?
- Is it worthy of me?



One in the One Christ

Sr. Gemma Morató Sendra, OP

In a striking contrast to the ceremonial grandeur often associated with a new papacy, Leo XIV's first public appearance was disarming in its simplicity. There were no grand declarations, no theatrical gestures. Instead, there was a quiet reverence, a humble gaze, and a message that was deeply intentional. "Peace be with you," he said—echoing the first words of the risen Christ. And with those words, a tone was set for his entire pontificate: one of peace, humility, fraternity, and mission.

Pope Leo XIV does not see the Church as a fortress to be defended but as a bridge to be built. His Augustinian roots have instilled in him a spirituality that is both contemplative and missionary—a restless search for God that is fulfilled only in community and service. He brings to the papacy a wealth of lived experience: as a missionary in the poor regions of Peru, as a seminary formator, as the superior general of his Order, and as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. These roles have not distanced him from the people but have deepened his commitment to walk with them—to listen, to heal, to accompany. This is a pope who believes that holiness is not reserved for the few but is the vocation of all. That the Church must be missionary not only in word but also in action. That synodality is not an option but is a path to rediscovering the face of Christ in one another. That Mary walks with us. And that evil will not have the final word.

In Leo XIV, the Church has not just found a pope—it has found a fellow pilgrim. One who reminds us, gently but firmly, that the journey of faith is not one we walk alone, but together. In the one Christ, we are one. †

From *10 Things Pope Leo XIV Wants You to Know* by Sr. Gemma Morató Sendra, OP, Liguori Publications (828980).

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Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "A Tour of a Catholic Church"

From wherever we stand in the church, our attention is drawn to the sanctuary... and to the three pieces of furniture we find there: the presider's chair, the lectern, and the altar. In the front of the assembly area, we find a special seat for the one presiding and leading the assembly. In the principal church of a diocese, this chair, the *cathedra* (from the Greek word for "chair"), gives name to the entire building, "cathedral." Each church will have a **presider's chair** or bench and seating for the other ministers. [There is also a] reading stand, a **lectern**, or *ambo*, from which we proclaim the word of God and upon which is placed the **Lectionary**, the book of readings from sacred Scripture. The **altar**...functions as both altar of sacrifice and banquet table for the Eucharist.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



Faithful God, as you keep your promises to us, please give us the grace to keep our promises to you and to others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 22–27

Monday, Weekday: Ezr 1:1–6 / Lk 8:16–18

Tuesday, St. Pius of Pietrelcina: Ezr 6:7–8, 12b, 14–20 / Lk 8:19–21

Wednesday, Weekday: Ezr 9:5–9 / Lk 9:1–6

Thursday, Weekday: Hg 1:1–8 / Lk 9:7–9

Friday, Weekday: Hg 2:1–9 / Lk 9:18–22

Saturday, St. Vincent de Paul: Zec 2:5–9, 14–15a / Lk 9:43b–45

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