



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a story of two men, a rich man and a poor man. The rich man is wealthy not only in clothes and food; he is also rich in privilege and in the freedom he enjoys from the worries felt by those who are poor, and this privilege conceals his responsibilities from him; it blinds him to the man who lies at his own gate.

In contrast, the poor man has humble hopes and he wishes only for the scraps that fall from the rich man's table but he receives not a crumb. Lazarus dies at the gate of the rich man and, soon after, the rich man too passes away.

In the next scene we are in the afterlife and there is a reversal of fortunes. Lazarus now reclines in the place of honour at the heavenly banquet and, in contrast, the rich man is in agony; his fate is fixed by his earthly actions. The new agony of the rich man awakens in him a compassion for his brothers and he hopes that Lazarus can return to earth and warn them. For the rich man, the flames have become an education. Abraham tells him that no ghostly apparition is going to save his brothers: they have the teachings of scripture and the poor at their gates from which to learn. That is enough. Unlike the rich man, Christ shares his riches with everyone. We are given the gift of compassion because someone, somewhere, is hurting. We are given the gift of speech because someone, somewhere, is dying for the lack of a kind word. We are given the gift of forgiveness because someone, somewhere, is cloistered in wrongdoing. None of these gifts are for hoarding. They were given freely; they are to be given freely. The rich man may have done nothing to Lazarus, but he was not innocent. There are times when our lack of action is our wrongdoing.

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time—28th September 2025

O Lord, good Father who has entrusted the earth to the human race, grant, we pray, that with the fruits harvested from it we may be able to sustain life and, with your help, always use them.



Monday (29th) is Michaelmas:

St. Michael the Archangel, we honour you as a powerful protector of the Church and guardian of our souls. Inspire us with your humility, courage and strength that we may reject sin and perfect our love for our Heavenly Father. In your strength and humility, slay the evil and pride in our hearts so that nothing will keep us from God.

In addition, this week let us pray for:



- ◆ Everyone who has joined the Springhill community this month. May God bless them every day of their journey with us;
- ◆ our leaders, that the Lord will illuminate them in the peace and wellbeing of the world;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning;
- ◆ all those affected by ongoing war.

Do all that you have been told until the Appearing of the Lord.

1 Timothy 6

