

### Old Testament Reading: Amos 8:4–7

- <sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy  
and bring the poor of the land to an  
end,  
<sup>5</sup> saying, “When will the new moon be over,  
that we may sell grain?  
And the Sabbath,  
that we may offer wheat for sale,  
that we may make the ephah small and  
the shekel great  
and deal deceitfully with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup> that we may buy the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals  
and sell the chaff of the wheat?”  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
“Surely I will never forget any of their  
deeds.”

### Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1–15

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications,  
prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be  
made for all people, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who  
are in high positions, that we may lead a  
peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in  
every way. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and it is pleasing in  
the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all  
people to be saved and to come to the knowl-  
edge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, and  
there is one mediator between God and men,  
the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a  
ransom for all, which is the testimony given  
at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed  
a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the  
truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gen-  
tiles in faith and truth.

<sup>8</sup>I desire then that in every place the men  
should pray, lifting holy hands without anger  
or quarreling; <sup>9</sup>likewise also that women should  
adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with  
modesty and self-control, not with braided hair  
and gold or pearls or costly attire, <sup>10</sup>but with  
what is proper for women who profess godli-  
ness—with good works. <sup>11</sup>Let a woman learn  
quietly with all submissiveness. <sup>12</sup>I do not per-  
mit a woman to teach or to exercise authority  
over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. <sup>13</sup>For  
Adam was formed first, then Eve; <sup>14</sup>and Adam  
was not deceived, but the woman was deceived  
and became a transgressor. <sup>15</sup>Yet she will be  
saved through childbearing—if they continue

in faith and love and holiness, with self-con-  
trol.

### Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1–15

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] also said to the disciples, “There was  
a rich man who had a manager, and charges  
were brought to him that this man was wast-  
ing his possessions. <sup>2</sup>And he called him and  
said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about  
you? Turn in the account of your manage-  
ment, for you can no longer be manager.’  
<sup>3</sup>And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall  
I do, since my master is taking the manage-  
ment away from me? I am not strong enough  
to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have  
decided what to do, so that when I am  
removed from management, people may  
receive me into their houses.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summon-  
ing his master’s debtors one by one, he said to  
the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’  
<sup>6</sup>He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said  
to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly  
and write fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he said to another,  
‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A  
hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him,  
‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>The master  
commended the dishonest manager for his  
shrewdness. For the sons of this world are  
more shrewd in dealing with their own gen-  
eration than the sons of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell  
you, make friends for yourselves by means of  
unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they  
may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup>“One who is faithful in a very little is also  
faithful in much, and one who is dishonest  
in a very little is also dishonest in much.  
<sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful in the  
unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you  
the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been  
faithful in that which is another’s, who will  
give you that which is your own? <sup>13</sup>No ser-  
vant can serve two masters, for either he will  
hate the one and love the other, or he will be  
devoted to the one and despise the other. You  
cannot serve God and money.”

<sup>14</sup>The Pharisees, who were lovers of money,  
heard all these things, and they ridiculed him.  
<sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “You are those who  
justify yourselves before men, but God knows  
your hearts. For what is exalted among men is  
an abomination in the sight of God.”

# Hear this

Amos 8:4

**About the Cover:** The Lord declared that judgment was coming upon those in Israel who tipped the scales in their favor and dealt deceitfully with the poor. However, the scales of God’s judgment cannot be rigged. Our attempts at good deeds will never outweigh our sinfulness. Yet Christ provided what Martin Luther called the greatest exchange when He took the full weight of our sin to the cross and gave us His righteousness in return.

