



The Gospel According to Luke 16:19-31

**The rich man also died and was buried;...If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead."**

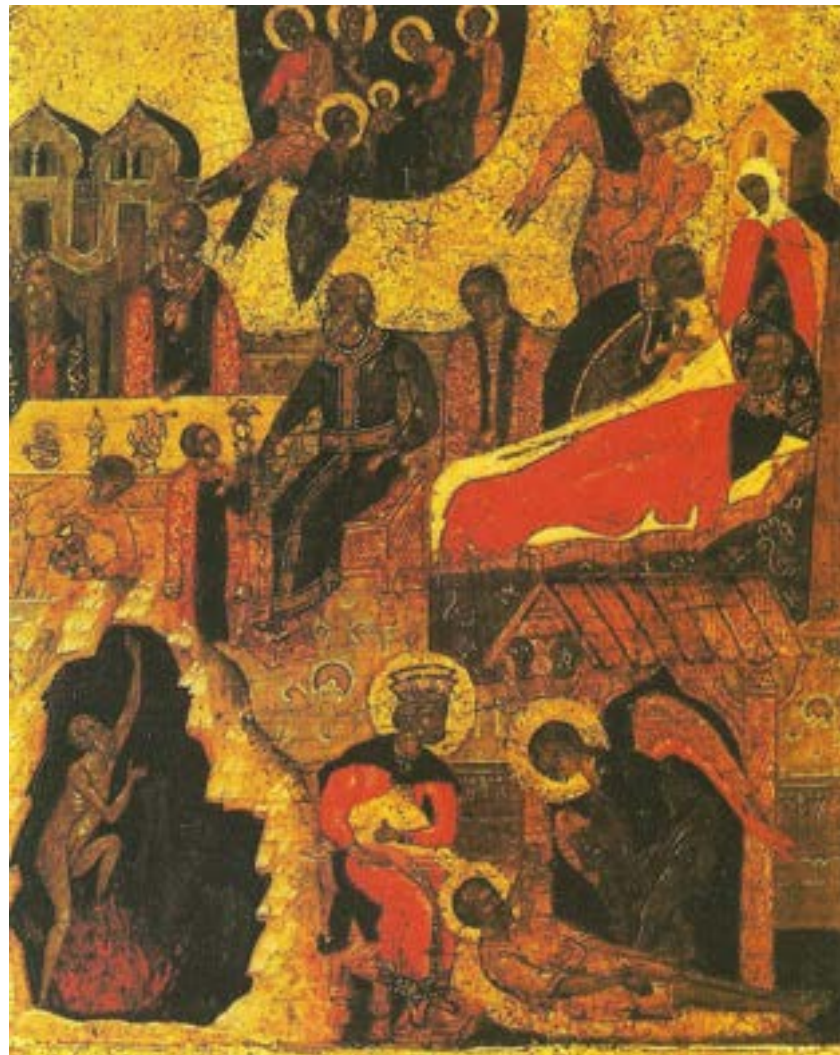
Orthros Antiphon:

**"Hand me not to the teeth of my enemies,  
O my Savior; for in the manner of a lion they  
come against me Your servant.**

There is a sense of a lost hope in today's gospel that we met during the week as well in the scriptures. Today we find out that there is no hope in hell if we can make it on our own down there. On Friday, the gospel ended with lack of hope as well: *and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.*"(Friday's gospel - Luke 11:23-26)

We need the gospel to receive the good news, to see what is good and worth living in our life. We are hopeless already, we might say, in our daily life and now we come to church to get crushed and be reaffirmed for good in our lack of hope. The church, as holy apostle Paul says, knows the hope. It is the church that knows it. How come today the church makes us feel hopeless because, in our honesty, we recognize that we are not really worthy of going to heaven? Maybe that's why we keep avoiding it in our daily life?

We used to keep a quote from St. Mark on the walls of the mission: "It is more dangerous to lose hope than to sin". I've seen lots of people who were touched by it because they've never really seen their life in that way. Most of them experienced both. They sinned badly and they lost hope because of the state in which they found themselves in their life. Hope is the



hand that touches our head with kindness no matter how bad we have sinned. No matter how much we have lost in life or lost ourselves, hope anoints your soul with perfume and brings about the knowledge of being forgiven and reconciled with the truth in Christ.

Today the quote is reversed in order to resonate with the mundane reality of time: since we have no hope we better keep on sinning.

Why is today's gospel condemning instead of inspiring? We know that fear of being punished does not teach us any good.

One day this week, while we were breaking bread together before lunch, one of the questions for us around the table was about freedom. What makes us free and what keeps us captive today? (It was kind of a continuation of last week's gospel of the possessed man who broke his chains but still finds himself with no freedom because of the evil spirits that had power over him). The answers are all the time fresh and original during the breaking of the bread. One that stayed longer with me was of a young girl who said that freedom is about being attentive. Paying attention. Being grounded in the reality that you live. Being aware of your proximity.

Evil keeps us captive, unaware of the consequences of our own actions. Unaware of the pain we cause to others through the way we live and sin. Even when, or especially when it happens really close to our heart, we are still unaware. In a rich country people are clueless today about the sore wounds in our collective body, even though they belong to us. We hear about it but spend no real time on giving something from our own life to that because it does not affect us directly yet. We hear and see the evil done to people but we cannot keep that reality within the heart for long and approach it personally. This is the gulf that separates us from others.

We don't know because we don't lack anything, living in a rich country and we could not relate with those who lack the basics. If you are never hungry you cannot break bread with the one who is, if you are never thirsty you don't know how to quench the thirst of the one who is, if you've never felt ashamed and humiliated, naked in your weakness you would not know to clothe the one who needs to be covered.



The rich man knew Lazaros by name. He recognizes him in heaven as being his last hope. It is because of Lazarus that the rich man can get a glimpse of heaven while being tormented in hell. The rich man had no place for Lazaros in his life and found no interest in him. Lazaros was ignored and disconsidered. And yet, the rich man knew his name and recognized him in heaven from very far away. That means that Lazaros was not avoided as a stranger but as a person that chose to live by the rich man's gate. He made his name known to the rich because he related personally with him. The rich man did not reject an individual but a person. The evil that Lazaros lived with was coming from the rich man's table.

The gospel today brings to our attention both the lack of hope for those who are not attentive to the scriptures, when "the scripture is being fulfilled" in their ears, and also the hope that our abandonment of others has an end. God has taken onto Himself, in his bosom, those that we are asked to keep in our heart. The good news is that they are within the care of the Father, the bad news is that we are not willing to partake in that even when we have been invited personally and directly all our life.

If nothing else, hell makes us aware of our own surroundings and our own pain. We start to lack and this is good news and we start to ask. We become thirsty so we can learn to desire fresh water. If we do not look for false hope where there is no human hope, the lament becomes prayer, as imperfect as it might be. And as somebody else said one of these days, when breaking bread at the mission with people, the only hope we have is that God always answers our prayers wherever we might be. He gives Himself to us, again, and again, and again...

***"Therefore did my heart rejoice and my tongue was glad; moreover, my flesh shall dwell in hope. For Thou will not abandon my soul in hades, nor will Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption".*** - from Psalm 15

### **Crumbs from the rich man's table**

I remember hearing 7 or 8 years ago a story shared at breakfast by a person struggling with addictions who had a very good sense of humour. The story was about him getting sick after eating a lunch he found at one of the subway stations. He said that what attracted him was that he was very hungry first of all, and secondly that the box looked untouched. It was tasty, but then he got sick, getting a mild food poisoning. He concluded that it was probably a couple of days old. He kind of knew when he started eating but could not really help himself.

There is no humor in the facts, but at the time he looked back at what had happened to him with humor and understanding. The thing is that the poor Lazaros did not really eat from the rich man's table because the rich man was generous with the leftovers. Actually, waste is a socioeconomic and environmental crisis for all rich countries. People cannot stop wasting. The crumbs are invading our life and they look immoral, to say the least. Lazaros was doing a good thing for the rich man even at that time, by eating from what he was wasting.

The paragraph below is taken from a European Newspaper that speaks about the numbers when it comes to food waste in one of the rich countries (I did not look for Canadian numbers but everything in North America is more grandiose usually - the photo is from Canada though).



*France wastes ten million tonnes of food every year – a third of its agricultural output lost between field and fork. Commodities whose prices have collapsed are dumped, unsold products thrown away and spoiled food discarded. According to the Agency for Ecological Transition, responsibility for food waste is split between producers (32%), processors (21%), retailers (14%) and consumers (33%). On average, each consumer wastes 30kg of food a year. Not only does this waste cost €16bn annually, it also squanders significant resources – land, oil, water – to produce, transport and process what gets thrown away. (Le monde diplomatique October edition 2021).*

**Please pray for the sick:**

**Robert; Petre; Constanta; Jeni; Florea, Rada; Robert;**

**Maria, Petrisor, Constantin, Silvia, Claudia**

Allain;Levalin and the family;Anne Brown;Seena Colin and her husband;

Waheeda and children; Faizah (depression); Shirin and her family; Sana and her husband (covid);

Eva; Tom ;Frank, Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia; Ati ; Ragaie; Victoria;Prayers for Mike.Farida need

prayers for her hand to heal ;Prayers for Roselyne and family ; Ana, Cornelia; Prayer for Leon to

recover from his surgery; Jerry

Prayer for Nikitha, Ocean, to stay away from drugs

Prayer for Gloria, Anne, Marina, Marie, Edemene for healing

Joanna and family GNRejoice;Romana, Colin, Michael, Peter, Henry, Joanna, George, Kelly;Tom;

Marina;Sandra and her son Chris;Kumari;Susan;child James who broke his leg

Aaron (surgery);Sylvia's ankle to be healed

Fr Jonathan

Tharshini and her two children  
Ann Tyron and her family  
Sandra Gomaz's children  
Elizabeth to cope with putting down her cat  
Matthi (went to Montreal to get surgery where her close family can help her)  
Sameen for his eyesight  
Sophia; Amy; Swetha and children ; Charitha (Dengu fever); Jitesh's parents ; Elisabeth; Demene; Carol  
Gloria (with some type of infection in her leg)  
Hawa Bibi (heart condition); Vimaladevi  
Tharsini and her child; Sana's Sister going through cancer treatment  
Ann T.'s husband ;  
Lynn; Michelle; Emanuel (Mani); Stefanie; Geoff; Joey; Evangelia; Sophia; Melanie;  
Césaire; Tanya; Piper; Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral ; Brenda; Anna Avairo's daughter  
(going regularly to the emergency room); Vol Gomaz heart condition and immigration matters ;  
Levlin's two children who are sick; Sri' ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa and Sana's sister (cancer)

**Please pray for health and salvation:**

Fr. Michael and Pani Karen; Prayer for **Anthony** and the family. He lost his bro in Trinidad. He is hoping to make a visit to Trinidad; Pray for **Ramanand** and his families in Gayana, USA and here in Canada. Ramanand lost three of his family members including one of his brothers , suddenly within two months. Paola.

**Dave and his family; Jai's family; Anne Tyran; Prayer for Joseph to find housing**

Joseph to find housing; Lito; Mauro, Prayers for Ted's family (incarcerated son to be free)

Dameal asking prayers for his future wife Fathima to be free from addictions

Liz Gibicar asking prayers for her mother; Mom waiting for baby Tejasree; Prashastha

Maria and Dingo; Criscent; Helen; Greta; Elizabeth; Dean; John; Liz; Criscent; Ann Brown; Elizabeth Sifie; Allen; Leon; Ricky and his family from back home for the hope of reuniting; Aaron, Anastas, Olivia, Gelly, Frank, Eva, George, Rebecca, Andreas, Cathyann, Reigan, Stephanie, Peter, Christine; Christian family from Bangladesh, Sandra, Peter, Angel, Bless, Grace, Swetha family; Atlaw single mom at shelter, Vernevil family; the family of Kenide; Saathiya; Sena; Vinothiny

Yvienne; Abdul; Sakanthalathevy; Jumke; Naimi; Anish; Joshua Daniel J Maria Lolita Soliman Torres, Jonathan , Richard, Richard, Mary , Elizabeth, Michael, Bill, Robert, Alan, Joanne

**Please pray for the deceased:**

Amy, Stela;; Willie; Dave's wife; Ana; Shirin 's cousin in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran's father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene, Joice, BettyAnn, James, Pauanasuy Kamthasang, Maria (Covid), Andrei, Agostina , Carminda, Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother, Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew passed away in Haiti. Demene's mother; Dalalzaki