

## Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year

### Lazarus and the rich man

#### INTRODUCTION

In today's Gospel story, Jesus reminds us that the way we live our lives will decide whether or not we share everlasting happiness with him at the end of time.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 2.

#### SORRY

The Book of Proverbs tells us:

Whenever you get the chance to help someone,  
do it willingly. Never turn someone away until  
tomorrow, when you can do a good deed today.

(Proverbs 3:27-29)

(Think about these words for a few moments  
before reading this prayer.)

Lord, please forgive me,  
if I have been selfish or unkind,  
and put my own needs and happiness first.  
Help me to make a fresh start  
and to put your goodness  
into action in my life.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your words, Lord,  
will guide me closer to you.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

#### GOSPEL (LUKE 16:19-31)

Jesus told this story: "Once there was a rich man who had fine clothes and the best of everything that money could buy. He spent his time enjoying himself and feasting with his rich friends.

"On the street outside his house lay a poor man, called Lazarus, who was thin and hungry and covered in sores. Lazarus would gladly have eaten the rich man's scraps, if they had been offered to him.

"One day Lazarus died and went to heaven

where he was truly happy at last. When the rich man died, he went to hell and saw Lazarus so happy, he cried out to him for help.

"But God asked the rich man, 'Did you help when Lazarus cried out for food? Did you care for him when he was ill and had nowhere to go? You thought only of yourself and gave up the chance of everlasting happiness with me.'"

#### DISCUSSION

The rich man spent all his time and his money on himself and on doing the things which made him happy. Lazarus had no home and no money. He sat outside the rich man's house and begged for food.

Many poor people beg for money to buy food and clothes. Often they are homeless and have nowhere to sleep. We want to help them but don't quite know how.

The rich man did absolutely nothing to help Lazarus. He was so concerned about his own happiness that he did not even notice Lazarus lying outside his house. What do you think the rich man should have done? (Encourage the children to share their ideas.)

In this story, Jesus wanted to show us that being well off and comfortable often makes us blind to the needs of people around us. But we should not forget that our words and actions in life will decide whether we share God's everlasting happiness, or like the rich man, pay for our greed and selfishness.

#### ACTIVITY

Copy and cut out the two figures, the house, path, and some palm trees. After coloring these separately, stick them onto a large sheet of paper and encourage the children to fill in the background.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Father in heaven,  
bless all the homeless people in our world  
and those who have to beg for their food.  
Open our eyes to their needs  
so that we can help them  
in whatever way we can.

