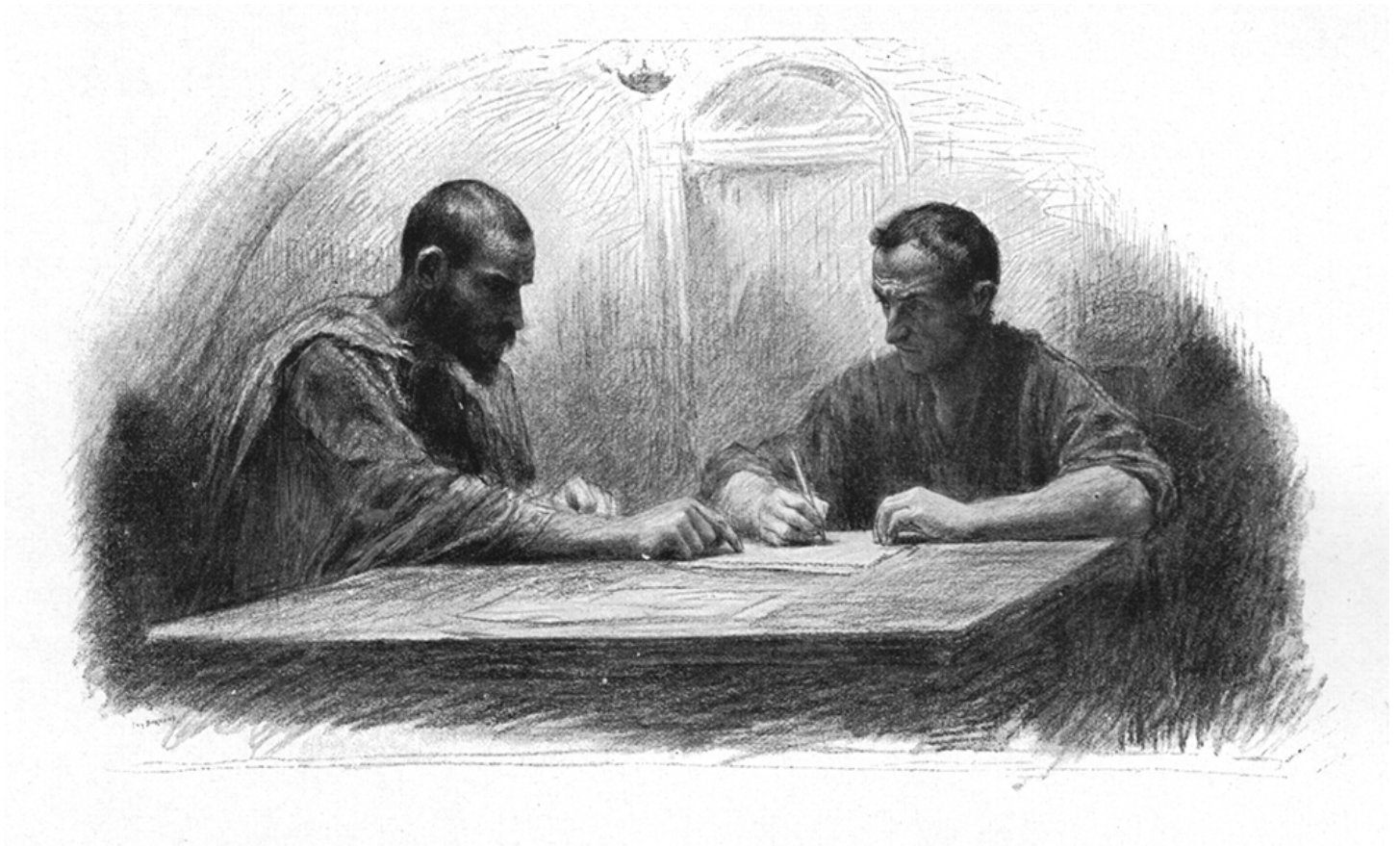


# Trinity Episcopal Church

*Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey*



*“Parable of the Dishonest Steward” by Eugène Burnand*

## *The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Rite I Holy Eucharist

Proper 20 — September 21, 2025 at 8 AM

*The Reverend Andrew David Kruger, Rector & Presider*

*Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music*

*Casey Woodruff, Senior Warden & Thomas Kaercher, Junior Warden*

## Pre-Service Welcome

*The bell is rung and the People stand.*

## Acclamation

BCP 323

*Presider* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

## Collect for Purity

BCP 323

*Presider* Let us pray.

*People* **Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love thee,  
and worthily magnify thy holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Great Commandment

BCP 324

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

## Kyrie

BCP 324

*Presider* Kyrie eleison.

*People* **Christe eleison.**

*Presider* Kyrie eleison.

## Collect of the Day

BCP 181

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things,  
but to love things heavenly; and even now,  
while we are placed among things that are passing away,  
to cleave to those that shall abide;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*

## First Reading

Jeremiah 8:18—9:1

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Prophet Jeremiah.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: “Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?” (“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?”) “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 79:1-9

*Deus, venerunt*

BCP 701

1. O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance;  
**they have profaned your holy temple; \***  
**they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.**

2. They have given the bodies of your servants  
as food for the birds of the air, \*  
**and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.**
3. They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem, \*  
**and there was no one to bury them.**
4. We have become a reproach to our neighbors, \*  
**an object of scorn and derision to those around us.**
5. How long will you be angry, O Lord? \*  
**will your fury blaze like fire for ever?**
6. Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you \*  
**and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your Name.**
7. For they have devoured Jacob \*  
**and made his dwelling a ruin.**
8. Remember not our past sins;  
let your compassion be swift to meet us; \*  
**for we have been brought very low.**
9. Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your Name; \*  
**deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's sake.**

## Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

*Reader* A reading from Paul's first letter to Timothy.

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

Luke 16:1-13

*Presider*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

*People*          **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.'

Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'

And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?

No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

*Presider*      The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*          **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**

BCP 326

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all humanity: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sean, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Sally our Bishop, and Andrew our Rector, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald, our President, Philip, our governor, and Terrence, the mayor of this town, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [*especially...*], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

BCP 331

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*The People kneel.*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against thee  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in thy will,  
and walk in thy ways,  
to the glory of thy Name.  
Amen.**

## Absolution

BCP 332

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Comfortable Words

BCP 332

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden,  
and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*



## Peace

BCP 332

*The People stand.*

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

## Offertory Sentence

BCP 344

*Presider* Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*



*The Ushers pass the collection plates among the People.  
Alternatively, you may give to Trinity online:  
scan the QR code and go directly to our Breeze link.*

## The Presentation of Gifts

1 Chronicles 29:14b

*Presider* All things come of thee, O Lord:

*People* **And of thine own have we given thee.**

## Eucharistic Prayer II

BCP 340

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption.

He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

BCP 336

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **Breaking the Bread**

BCP 337

*The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is observed, then the Presider says*

*Presider* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

## Invitation

BCP 338

*Presider*      The Gifts of God:  
*People*        **For the People of God.**

## Holy Communion

*The ushers guide the people to receive Holy Communion. All who hunger for God, including children, are cordially invited to share the Gifts of God offered at this table. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here. All persons may, but no person must, receive communion in both kinds to receive the full spiritual benefits of communion. Wine is offered by way of a sip from the common cup. You may choose to receive only the host. Gluten-free wafers are available by simple request to the priest.*

## Post Communion Prayer

BCP 339

*Presider*      Let us pray.

*People*        **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

## Blessing

BCP 339

*The Presider pronounces the blessing*

And now may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The ministers recess.*

## Dismissal

BCP 340

*Presider*        Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*         **Thanks be to God.**



## For Friends, Visitors and Newcomers

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford, New Jersey. Thank you for joining us in worship. The bulletin is designed to make you feel at home and includes everything you need for the service (liturgy, hymns, rubrics, etc.). Please connect with us; introduce yourself to the ushers so they can make you feel more comfortable. Father Andy is in the narthex (entrance) at the end of the service; it is an opportunity to connect on a more personal level. All are invited to Fellowship Hour in Sherlock Hall immediately after the service.

An email blast is sent every Thursday by 2 PM with hyperlinks to sign-up sheets, methods to contribute to the parish or other charitable organizations, ways to contact individuals or receive information on events, etc. Please contact the parish office to receive it or alternative methods of communication.

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## **What you need to know today...**

**Fellowship Hour** In Sherlock Hall, immediately after this service.

**Sunday School** Today, for children in PreK-3 through Grade 4. After the blessing at the beginning of the service, the children go to class with their teachers and return to the Church for the Eucharist.

**Children's Choir Rehearsal** Today from 11:30 AM to 12 noon in the church.

**St. John's Sandwich Sunday** Today, people are needed to make sandwiches after services that day and deliver the sandwiches to St. John's, Elizabeth. Sandwich donations are listed in this week's email blast. Please contact Marion Nechuta at [marionnechuta@yahoo.com](mailto:marionnechuta@yahoo.com) or Helen Shteynberg at [hshteynberg@gmail.com](mailto:hshteynberg@gmail.com).

**The Sacrament of Baptism** Candidates will be enrolled today at the 10 AM Eucharist, and parents of candidates are required to attend the Baptismal Preparation Class on Saturday, October 11, from 10 AM to 12 Noon. Baptism will be offered on the Feast of All Saints (observed on Sunday, November 2).

**Trinity Episcopal Senior Youth (TESY)** Today, from 12 noon to 1:30 PM in Sherlock Hall. The topic is "Vision Boards: Back to School Goals." Contact Katie Annarelli at [Kathleen.M.Annarelli@outlook.com](mailto:Kathleen.M.Annarelli@outlook.com) to sign up.

## **What you need to know this week...**

**The Daily Offices** Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are offered online from Monday to Friday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM.

**Parish Office** Parish Administrator Marion Nechuta is in Tuesday (12 noon-2:30 PM), Wednesday (1 PM-3:30 PM) and Thursday (12 noon-2:30 PM). Father Andy's sabbath day is now Friday (it had previously been on Monday).

**Handbells and Choir Rehearsals** Wednesday, September 24; rehearsal for Handbells is 7 to 7:50 PM and Adult Choir is 8-9 PM.

**Compline** Thursdays at 8 PM online. A contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace.

## **What you need to know in the future...**

**Blessing of the Animals** Sunday, September 28 at both 8 AM and 10 AM services. Bring your pets to both services.

**Funeral Service for Alan Force** Sunday, September 28 at 2 PM in the Church.

**Acolyte Training** Sunday, October 19 immediately after the 10 AM Eucharist for all current and aspirant acolytes.

**Spiritual Hike with Outdoor Eucharist** Saturday, October 25 at 9 AM. Meet in the parking lot of the Deserted Village (“Feltville”) in the Watchung Reservation. From there, it is a five-minute walk down a paved road to a secluded pergola to celebrate Eucharist. An easy one-hour hike will follow. This event was such a success over the summer that we are going to do it again. Celebrating Christ’s resurrection in the splendor of God’s creation adds another layer to the Eucharistic encounter. For those who choose not to hike, there is space to sit quietly. This is a great activity for families and promises to be a memorable event. Please contact Senior Warden, Casey Woodruff (woodruff5073@gmail.com) to register or with any questions.”

### **Spiritual Reflection: Preparing for the Gospel**

This week, the spiritual reflection, focused on the Gospel, confronts us with the parable of the dishonest manager from [Luke 16:1-13](#). This difficult to comprehend text brings to mind Winston Churchill’s phrase; “It’s a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma...” Condensed to its simplest form the parable is about a business manager (steward, *oikonomos*) who engages in questionable conduct that damages his boss financially, yet wins praise from his boss!? C. H. Dodd — the New Testament scholar and influential Protestant theologian — observed that even Luke seems confused as to what to do with the parable, providing at least three interpretations at the parable’s conclusion: (1) that the children of light should learn from the prudence of their corrupt neighbors; (2) to make friends by means of dishonest wealth; and (3) that if one wishes to be entrusted with true riches, one must demonstrate honesty with ordinary wealth. Parables like this compel us to acknowledge that our worldview is formed far more from our society than from our membership in God’s Kingdom. The parable is strange and difficult for us to comprehend because we are so ‘invested’ in, and formed by, our monetary systems. Systems that would obviously condemn the dishonest manager. But for a Galilean peasant, living under crushing debt, the manager who reduces ‘dishonest interest’ to a fair amount is obviously the one who should be lauded, even though he acts from self-interest...

### **Cover Art**

“Parable of the Dishonest Steward” by Eugène Burnand: Illustration for the parable in Luke 16: 1-13, commonly known as the Parable of the Dishonest Steward, by Swiss artist Eugène Burnand (1850-1921). These images, along with 80 others, were published in *Les Paraboles*, a 1908 French language book of the parables of Jesus. A deeply religious man, his Protestant beliefs led him to include more religious works that he put his stamp of realism on, and he became best known in Europe for his illustrations of “The Parables”, that was published in French, German and English versions over four decades.

## Lectionary & Liturgy

In the liturgy, the spiritual and the material are joined in Holy Communion. This reflects the Christian concern with both matter and spirit. We cannot be faithful to the gospel if we limit our values to either one alone. Today's gospel reading about the unjust steward makes the point that how we use our material wealth is directly related to our relationship with God. If a "worldly" person like the steward uses money to secure friends, how much more should we, the children of God, use our material wealth to gain favor with God and our fellow human beings.

The first reading from Jeremiah reveals how the message of God rejecting the kingdom of Judah pained him. The prophet laments the state of his people even though he knows that their suffering is a result of their own choice to reject their God and their refusal to repent. Today we continue the series of readings from the first epistle to Timothy. These letters, written after Paul's death by his followers, give practical advice to Christian communities about church life. The church is to be an intercessory body of people who, through their prayer for all persons (even the emperor, their enemy), are the means of bringing about God's salvation.

God's love is for all of creation and we are called in both liturgical worship and daily living to be God's instrument in bringing everything and everyone into God's Kingdom.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.  
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Website: [TrinityCranford.org](http://TrinityCranford.org)

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Connect to Daily Office Services and Meetings on Zoom

Connect to Sunday 10 AM Eucharists and High Holy Day Services on Trinity's YouTube

Instructions for Zoom and YouTube are on the homepage of Trinity's Website

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