

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Ecc 35:12-14, 16-19

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

The Lord is a judge
who is no respecter of personages.
He shows no respect of personages to the
detriment of a poor man,
he listens to the plea of the injured party.
He does not ignore the orphan's supplication,
nor the widow's as she pours out her story.
The man who with his whole heart serves God
will be accepted,
his petitions will carry to the clouds.
The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds,
until it arrives he is inconsolable,
nor will he desist until the Most High takes
notice of him,
acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.
And the Lord will not be slow,
nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 33

Response:

This poor man called; the Lord heard him.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the
earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be
condemned. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy.

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. "Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, 'I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get.' The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner.' This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
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.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look, we pray, O Lord,
on the offerings we make to your majesty,
that whatever is done by us in your service
may be directed above all to your glory.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray,
perfect in us what lies within them,
that what we now celebrate in signs
we may one day possess in truth.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

It is the saying of holy men that, if we wish to be perfect, we have nothing more to do than to perform the ordinary duties of the day well. A short road to perfection-short, not because easy, but because pertinent and intelligible. There are no short ways to perfection, but there are sure ones.

Saint John Henry Newman

Sunday Message

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 26 October 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

HUMBLY SPEAKING

LK 18:9-14



This story must have been a tremendous shock to Jesus' listeners. In the Christian tradition, Pharisees have received a bad press. They are often portrayed as hypocrites and legalists. But in Jesus' time Pharisees were highly respected.

Jesus' listeners would have known that the Pharisee in this story was telling the truth of his life. This was how Pharisees lived. They lived according to an exacting religious discipline – of fasting, giving alms, paying tithes. Imagine committing one-tenth of one's income to the Church each year! So, the Pharisee is only speaking the truth when he lists all that he has done, and is doing. You could say it is an exemplary life.

And then we meet the tax collector. Tax collectors, or publicans, were not the most popular folks in town. They not only collected taxes on behalf of the hated Roman occupiers, but often extracted extra money from people to line their own pockets. Think of Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector, and the promise he made to Jesus: "Lord, if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will repay it fourfold" (Lk 19:8). In the Gospels, tax collectors were often bracketed in one breath with sinners. So any mention of tax collector would have brought images of corruption, exploitation and oppression to Jesus' listeners.

Imagine, then, how they must have felt when their understanding of holiness was turned upside down. The Pharisee was a respected part of the religious system, a good and holy man; the tax collector was outside it, a traitor, a crook. Yet Jesus praises the tax collector and condemns the Pharisee.

The explanation lies in the first verse of today's Gospel. Jesus "told this parable to

some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everybody else." These people thought that what made them pleasing in God's sight was their own virtuous activity, a laundry list of good works, and they looked disdainfully down their arrogant noses at the rest of the human race, at sinners and tax collectors and everyone else who did not duplicate their good deeds.

The Pharisee was smug. He thought he was a cut above other people, especially sinners like the tax collector. He was so full of his own efforts and achievements that he had little space for the gift of God's mercy.

The tax collector knew he was a sinner. He was aware that he was far from perfect. He is upright before God, he has the stance the Lord applauds, because he trusts not in himself but in God, not in any good work that calls for reward but only in God's goodness and mercy. And in begging for forgiveness, he does not contrast himself with the proud Pharisee or anyone else. He does not dare "lift up his eyes to heaven," and he does not dare to comment on any member of the congregation except himself: "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." He knows that God's love and forgiveness is available even to someone like him.

Turns out it is the tax collector, who thought himself far from the Kingdom of God, who is in fact closest to it. ■

REFLECT

The story of the Pharisee and the tax collector offers us both a warning and a consolation. The warning is about judging others. We can all fall prey to the Pharisee's fault. Humans have a natural tendency to compare ourselves with others, to look down on those we think aren't as good-living or hard-working as we think we are. It's why society and church dealt so harshly in the past with unmarried mothers and their children. Judging ourselves to be socially or morally superior to others, totting up all our good deeds, we can, like the Pharisee, feel a little smug.

But, of course, the fact is that no one is perfect. Rather than making comparisons, we should acknowledge what we have in common – that we all have the same human weaknesses and all need God's forgiveness. The fact that we are Christians shouldn't make us self-satisfied, or complacent, or think we are a cut above others. There is no guarantee that we are better living than the non-believer.

What makes all the difference is knowing we are forgiven sinners, that no matter what we have done or not done or how sinful we think we may be, God loves us and forgives us anyway, and that God's forgiveness is always available to us. That's the consoling message of today's Gospel. We just need to turn to the Lord with sincere and repentant hearts, as the tax collector did. ■

LEARN

The Christian has the same human weakness as everyone else

The Christian is slow to judge others

The Christian trusts in God's love and forgiveness and knows that God forgives him or her first

SAY

"Lord, I know I am far from perfect. Help me to live in a way that is pleasing to you. Amen."

DO

The Pharisee looked down on the tax collector. Is there a person or group of people you look down on? What do you need to do about it?

PRAY

Make the tax collector's prayer of humility your own: "God, be merciful to me a sinner."