

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 2 Cor 5:19
Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world
to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he
has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 18:9-14
A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.
*The publican returned to his home justified; the
Pharisee did not.*

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.**

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Breaking Open the Word

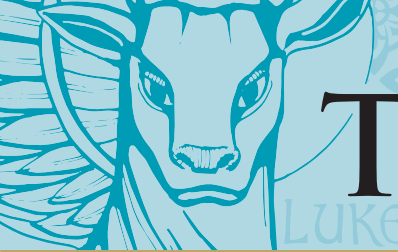
PONDERING OUR ATTITUDES

Today’s Gospel presents us with a mirror to
help us reflect on the way we regard others.
It is especially pertinent when we feel assured
that our religious attitude and approach to our
Faith and God is correct. It is even possible
that out of this attitude we can regard others,
especially those from other faith traditions,
as uninformed or perhaps targets of divine
condemnation.

Jesus offers Luke’s audience an opportunity
to reflect on similar attitudes. It takes the
form of a parable focused on two people: a
person of religious scrupulosity and a public
sinner. The first is called a ‘Pharisee’, an
identification that requires nuanced historical
understanding. For Luke writing in the mid-
80s of the first century in the period after the
destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, Pharisees
enabled Judaism to survive and grow. They
represented its leadership. To followers of
Jesus at that same period they represented
those who were critical of the Jesus-movement
and didn’t join in. In the time of Jesus, in the
30s, the situation was very different. They
were very attuned to Jesus’ mission and, like
him, concerned about authentic Jewish faith
and Torah practice.

In the story in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus compares
a ‘Pharisee’ (in this later historical under-
standing) to a tax-collector judged a sinner,
collaborating in Rome’s oppressive taxation
system. This ‘sinner’ recognises his need for
God’s mercy; the Lukan Pharisee, self-assured
about his religious credentials, arrogant and
without any need for God, is self-focused.
These parable characters invite us to ponder
our attitude to God and others.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

26 OCTOBER 2025

FIRST READING Sir 35:12-14, 16-19

A reading from the book of Sirach
The prayer of the humble will penetrate the heavens.
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.**

RESP PSALM Ps 32:2-3, 17-19, 23. R. v. 7

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

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 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy**
*All that remains is the crown of righteousness
reserved for me.*

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.**