

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.

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

23 OCTOBER 2022

## PRAYERS OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND HUMBLE

An ever-present danger for the sincerely devoted and religious person is that of falling into the trap of self-righteousness. The danger that lurks is that of seeing others as less committed and worthwhile in God’s eyes than oneself. Both the first reading from Ecclesiasticus and Jesus’ parable about the Pharisee and the tax collector provide us with timely and penetrating reminders that it is the prayer of the person who knows their need of the Lord that pierces the clouds of heaven. Humble and grateful acceptance of the Lord’s mercy and love is our most appropriate response.

As the second letter to Timothy concludes, Paul’s ministry is evaluated. Rather than think that Paul is blowing his own trumpet, it is worth remembering that this letter was probably written by one of Paul’s disciples. In their judgement, Paul had indeed run the best of all races, and he was more than worthy to receive the crown of righteousness after his ministry as a fearless and tireless proclaimer of the Good News. In that ministry, he had often met with opposition, misunderstanding and sometimes even betrayal (2 Corinthians 11:21-30). Through all this, he was supported by the knowledge that the Lord was standing by his side as the source of his power. He had no illusions that he was anything but an earthen vessel that carried a priceless treasure, and that the power belonged to the Lord (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Christopher Monaghan CP

## 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

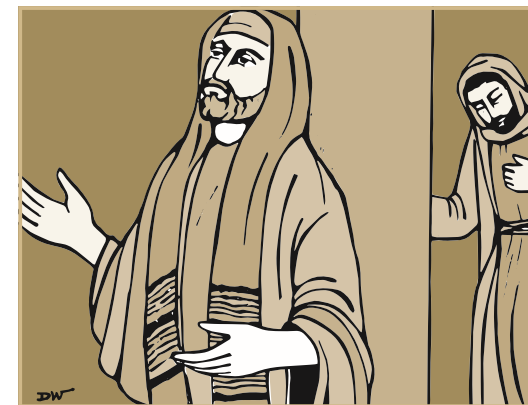
Ps 32:2-3, 17-19, 23. R. v. 7

**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.

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