

The Living Word

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

26 October 2025

First Reading Sir 35:12-14, 16-18

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.

Responsorial 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 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18

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.

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

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.'



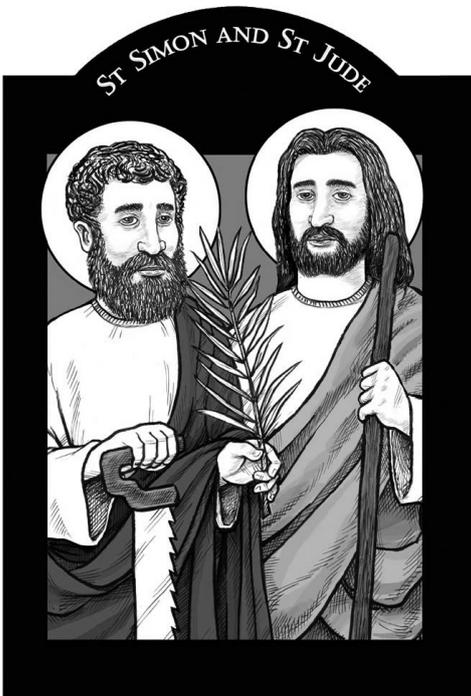
Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

It is very easy for religious people to
fall into a kind of self-righteousness.
Their very enthusiasm and generosity
can plant the seeds of religious
arrogance. They know what
commitment demands of them; they
experience relative success in their
endeavors to be faithful; they distance
themselves from what they think
might threaten their resolve; and then
they pass judgment on those who do
not share their values or experience
their success. This kind of arrogance
is often imperceptible, because there
is enough truth in every step along the
way that it is difficult to recognise
when one is veering off the track.

Jesus extols the humility of the one
who admits being a sinner, and can
accept the implications of that
admission. This is the kind of prayer
that is described in the reading from
Sirach and the psalm response. It is
those who can admit that they are
needy who turn to God in that need. It
is those who trust that God will be
their strength in the face of their
weaknesses who are strengthened.

Paul's own prayer demonstrates the
attitudes that should be ours as we
pray. Like the Pharisee, he
acknowledges his success. He has
competed well; he has finished the
course; he has kept the faith.
However, unlike the Pharisee, he
acknowledges that God is the source
of any good he has been able to
accomplish. The Lord stood by him
and gave him strength. If there is any
glory, it belongs to God. Paul's
confident prayer springs from a
humble heart.

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St Simon and St Jude were two of Jesus' twelve apostles. St Simon was known as 'the Cnaanite' or 'the Zealot' by other evangelists and St Jude was a blood relative of Jesus and known as one of the 'brethren of the Lord'. Little, however, is known about either of these apostles after the events at Pentecost. Western traditions suggest that St Simon preached in Egypt before joining St Jude in Persia, where they were both martyred. In recent times, St Jude has become popular as the patron of 'hopeless causes'. This probably originates from early Christians confusing St Jude with Judas, who betrayed Jesus. As a result people never prayed for his help and so devotion to St Jude became somewhat of a lost or hopeless cause.

Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| better | greedy | marriage | sorry |
| dishonest | heaven | Pharisee | tax |
| eating | humble | pleasing | temple |

R H J W H L J C G Z R Z H J Z U I
 E I P B E S O B B G Y J E P W C S
 T F I X A F F Y U B F I U L H C E
 T N X P V W M A G D E E K E X S M
 E A M N E S W I U Q O E S A M A N
 B O V G N Z M X X W W A V S J Y K
 I Y U I N C W J A S N E T I E O H
 E N J T E I R M T N G E H N T O X
 Q C Q S H J T Q F A Y S U G Q O Q
 H C H E T O X A I B F I R H T N A
 G S U N V G X R E E M R Y G R G N
 X K M O C H R T Y N O A D R G M M
 N D B H D A L P D D F H N H R E J
 Q E L S M F I A H K E P O R P O B
 V I E I X M T E L P M E T A A A S
 U A V D S K D N I W Z X R P Z N W
 D L Z H N O C S W X D A L G W K U

Match up the correct endings

Draw a line from the first half of each sentence to its correct ending.



The Pharisee and the Tax Collector went

you will be honoured.

The Pharisee prayed

"God, have pity on me! I am a sinner."

The Tax Collector prayed

you will be put down.

If you put yourself above others

to the temple to pray.

If you humble yourself

"God, I thank you that I am not greedy or dishonest."