

OCTOBER 23, 2022
TWENTIETH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Prayer and humility.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 18:9-14	A Pharisee and tax collector pray
Monday	Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22	Jeremiah prays to the Lord
Tuesday	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Paul's instruction to Timothy
Wednesday	James 4:5-10	Surrender to God
Thursday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for guidance
Friday	Matthew 23:1-12	The example of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 84:1-7	The joy of worship
Sunday	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus visits Zacchaeus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'" Luke 18:13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of amazing grace, we thank you that we can be honest with you, knowing our broken lives are made whole in your love through Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this gift of food and for all the ways you strengthen us, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus rescue you from any harm, any where, any time.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lord, Teach Us How to
Pray Aright*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How would you describe a life lived with humility?
- When you pray, what requests or confessions do you make to God?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 18:9-14.

This parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector is a story of contrasts with a caution. The Pharisee offers a prayer of thanksgiving. However, he seems to be praying to himself as he demeans another soul. The tax collector, on the other hand, does not look around for comparisons; he doesn't even look up. He beats his breast with sorrow and, in so doing, gains the favor of Jesus. The tax collector's words, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" (v. 13), have been handed down throughout the centuries as a model prayer for us all. As an act of repentance and humility, the caution is for us not to praise the posture and prayer of the Pharisee, saying to ourselves, "Thank God I am not like that person!" Repentance and humility promote a way of life that does not draw attention to oneself nor claim to have the sole possession of what is true, right, and beautiful. Living faithfully does not give us bragging rights. This parable leads us away from judgment and toward openness to the presence of God and others.

Discuss: In what ways can you show repentance and humility in your life of prayer?

Pray: **Merciful God, give us faith to trust in you with a humble heart, to confess our brokenness to you, and to care for others through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you pray for the needs of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Luke 18:13 is one of the foundational texts for the Jesus Prayer. This prayer has been widely taught in the Orthodox Church as a monastic prayer but is not only limited to monks and clergy. It is a prayer for all people of all ages. This week, kneel as a sign of humility and pray the Jesus Prayer: **Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.**



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