



Liturgy Cycle C

Thirtieth Sunday Of The Year

The Pharisee And The Tax Collector

Introduction

The Pharisee in Christ's story boasted that he was not like the rest of men. By this he meant that he was not a sinner. At the start of the Mass we confess in no uncertain terms that we are sinners. We admit that we offend in our thoughts and in our words, in what we do and in what we fail to do. Furthermore, we make no excuses.

First Reading (Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19)

God is no respecter of persons. He shows no partiality for the rich and the powerful, but listens to the humble prayer of the just and the lowly.

Second Reading (2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18)

Paul, a prisoner in Rome, feels that his death is drawing near. But his confidence is unshaken and his hope of the 'crown of glory' is bright.

Gospel (Luke 18:9-14)

This contains the great parable of Christ about the Pharisee and the tax collector.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray for the grace that we may imitate the humility of the tax collector and shun the pride of the Pharisee.

R: Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.

For all members of the Church: that we may never parade our good deeds before God or look down on other people. Let us pray.

R: Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.

For all in authority: that they may have the humility to acknowledge their faults, and resolve to correct them. Let us pray.

R: Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.

For all the fault-finders and begrudgers: that they may realise that it is not necessary to put out the other person's light in order to let one's own shine. Let us pray.

R: Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.



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That we may come before God as we are, with all our sins and wounds, so that we may enjoy the benefits of his forgiveness and healing. Let us pray.

R: Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.

Communion Reflection

William Barclay told the following story.

Once he was on a train Journey from Scotland to England.

As he was passing through the Yorkshire moors

he spotted a little whitewashed cottage.

**How its radiant whiteness shone out
against the drab and bleak moors!**

**A few days later he passed that way again
on the return journey.**

Snow had fallen and was lying deep on the ground.

He came again to the little whitewashed cottage.

**But now its whiteness actually seemed drab
against the virgin whiteness of the snow.**

**So if we should be tempted
to compare ourselves with others.**

**let us compare ourselves with none other
than Christ himself.**

**When we lay our imperfect lives beside his sinless life,
all we will be able to say is:**

'Lord, be merciful to me, I am a sinner.'

**This is the most moving of all prayers,
and one that God cannot fail to hear.**