

Sunday Readings

26th October 2025

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Sirach

35:15-17,20-22

The Lord is the judge, and with him is no partiality. He will not show partiality in the case of a poor man; and he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan or the widow when she pours out her story. He whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted, and his prayer will reach to the clouds. The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord; he will not desist until the Most High visits him and does justice for the righteous and executes judgement. And the Lord will not delay.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 33:2-3,17-19,23 R/. v.7

R/. The poor man called; the Lord heard him.

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/.**

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/.**

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

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

4:6-8,16-18

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

At my first defence no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself,
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 'Two men went up into the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get." But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

The Word of God

Saints of the Week

Tuesday 28 October 2025

Today's gospel reading presents us with the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican who went to the Temple to pray. According to this parable, the Pharisee thanked God for his righteousness while the tax collector being mindful of his sins asked God for pardon. Surprisingly, Jesus approved only the prayer of the Publican and was dissatisfied with the prayer of the Pharisee. Ordinarily speaking, there is nothing wrong in thanking God for living a righteous life. This Pharisee is supposedly a devout Jew who lived even more than he was expected. He recognized the need for thanksgiving and went ahead to thank God. As the object of his thanksgiving, he presented his religious credentials.

However, there are a number of issues associated with his prayer. He was not wrong in his methodology but in his disposition. In his prayer, we see a feeling of superiority over others especially sinners. When we flaunt our religious credentials, we are no better than this Pharisee. We have to recognize that our piety does not make us superior to others. That is why we have to shun every feeling of pride in our spiritual lives.

Moreover, his prayer portrays a claim of total responsibility for the good he did. We are like the Pharisee when we take all the glory for the good we do. Without God we can do nothing and it is through His grace that we are able to do all things (cf. Phil. 4:13). Because he failed to recognize the impact of grace in his life, he has a myopic understanding of sin. In justifying his righteousness, the Pharisee was not concerned with the good he had failed to do.

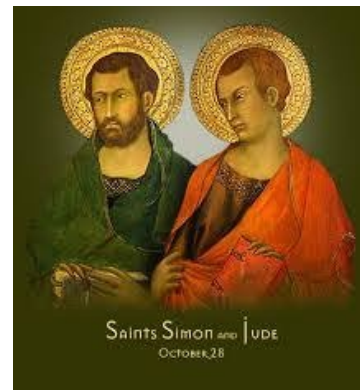
What is your disposition when you approach God in prayer? Do we feel we are qualified for whatever we ask from Him based on how we have lived our lives? Do we have a feeling of vainglory? Today the Lord invites us to approach Him with humility and contrition. He wants to see us accuse ourselves that He may set us free. Therefore, today let us ask God for the grace always to appear before Him with humility and contrition so, that at the end, His grace may qualify us for the crown of unfading glory which St. Paul talks about in the second reading.

St Simon, Apostle

Simon is eleventh in the list of the twelve Apostles. He is known as Simon the Zealot, but nothing else is known about him. His other name of "Simon Cananaeus" simply adapts another Hebrew word for "zeal" and has nothing to do with the town of Cana.

St Jude, Apostle

Jude, also called Thaddaeus, is the apostle who at the Last Supper asked the Lord why he showed himself only to the disciples and not to the world. For many centuries he was scarcely venerated because people confused him with Judas Iscariot. He is the patron saint of lost and desperate causes.



Prayer of the Week

Prayer for Humility

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart,
make my heart like unto thine heart.

From the desire to be esteemed,
Deliver Me.

From the desire to be honoured...

From the desire to be praised...

From fear of being humiliated...

From fear of being held in contempt...

From fear of suffering rebukes...

From fear of being slandered...

From fear of being ignored...

From fear of being insulted...

From fear of being wronged...

Amen.