

THE PUBLICAN'S PRAYER

A Meditation on the Pharisee and the Publican (St. Luke 18)

Two men go up to the Temple to pray, and only one of them actually prays. The Pharisee stands and recites — his fasting, his tithing, his distance from thieves and adulterers and, pointedly, from the tax collector a few feet away. It is less a prayer than a résumé read aloud to God.

The publican will not even lift his eyes to heaven. He stands off, strikes his breast, and says only, *"God be merciful to me a sinner."* No résumé, because he has nothing to put on one — a collaborator with Rome, despised by his own people, aware of exactly what he is. He asks for mercy because it is the only thing left to ask for.

"I tell you," our Lord says, "this man went down to his house justified rather than the other." Not because his sin was smaller, but because his prayer was true. The Pharisee's error was never the fasting or the tithing — those were real and good. It was mistaking his own righteousness for something to present rather than something to receive.

This is a hard parable to hear rightly, because the moment we feel satisfied we are not the Pharisee, we have become him. The prayer is not a trick for winning at humility. It is simply true: every one of us stands nearer the publican's place than we would like, with nothing to offer but the asking.

"for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." That is the whole of it, and it is enough. Come to this table with the publican's prayer rather than the Pharisee's ledger, and go down to your house justified.

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THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

God, Be Merciful to Me a Sinner

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

16 AUGUST 2026



*The Church of Our Saviour and the Holy Apostles
The Church of Our Saviour, Santa Barbara*



The Church of Our Saviour and the Holy Apostles

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Parishes in the Anglican Province of Christ the King

The Rt. Rev. Donald M. Ashman, *Rector & Ordinary*

The Rev. Robert Greene, *Curate* · The Rev. Boyd Britton, *Vicar* · The Rev. Philip Ternahan,
Assisting

Holy Communion & Hymns: 10:00 a.m. Los Angeles · 11:30 a.m. Santa Barbara
5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer · Zoom · Home Invitation

The Processional Hymn.....*Pleyel's Hymn*....# 579

INTROIT. *Deus in loco sancto suo. Ps. 68.* God in his holy habitation, he is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in an house : he will give strength and power unto his people. Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered : let them also that hate him flee before him. Glory be.

The Collect for Purity & Summary of the Law.....p. 67

The Ninefold Kyrie (Greek).....*Willan*....# 710

The Gloria in Excelsis.....*Old Scottish*....# 739

The Collect for Trinity XI.....p. 204

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians xv. 1.....p. 204

GRADUAL & ALLELUIA. *Ps. 28.* My heart hath trusted in God and I am helped : therefore my heart danceth for joy, and in my song will I praise him. Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my strength : think no scorn of me; my God, go not far from me. Alleluia, alleluia. V. *Ps. 81.* Sing we merrily unto God our strength : make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob; take the psalm, bring hither the tabret. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel: St. Luke xviii. 9.....p. 205

The Sermon Hymn.....*Tallis' Canon*....# 165

The Nicene Creed.....p. 71

OFFERTORY. *Ps. 30.* I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up : and not made my foes to triumph over me. O Lord, my God, I cried unto thee : and thou hast healed me.

The Offertory Hymn.....*Pleading Saviour*....# 117

The Doxology.....*Old Hundredth*....# 139

THE ORATE FRATRES. V/ Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty. R/ May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hand to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church. (To which the priest responds: Amen.)

The Prayer for the Church & General Confession.....p. 74

The Absolution and Comfortable Words.....p. 76

The Sursum Corda and Proper Preface

The Sanctus and Benedictus.....*Willan*....# 711

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION.....p. 80

The Lord's Prayer, the Fraction & Pax Domini

The Agnus Dei.....*Willan*....# 712

The Prayer for Unity.....p. 49

The Prayer of Humble Access.....p. 82

The Communion Hymn.....*Rendez a Dieu*....# 195

The Prayer of Thanksgiving.....p. 83

COMMUNION. *Prov. 3.* Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase : so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT. We humbly beseech thee, O Lord our God, that like as thou ceasest not to renew us with thy heavenly sacraments : so thou wouldest not fail to bestow upon us in all things the succour of thy mercy. Through...

The Dismissal · V/ Depart in Peace · R/ Thanks be to God

The Blessing.....p. 84

The Recessional Hymn.....*Praise to the Lord*....# 279